



Dear parents and children,

French classes resume for some and start for others. We just wanted to ensure you had the necessary information for your child to spend an enriching and fun term with us. Please find in the following pages useful information on the classes & also tips to support your child's learning. Please also ensure you read and agree upon the terms and conditions.

## CLASS RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Class material*

Children are expected to come to all the classes with the material they need. The kids have to bring a **large notepad** to write in, draw or glue any handouts and a **pencil**, a **sharpener** and an **eraser**. We have pencils, niko pens, scissors and glue here but they are welcome to bring in their own equipment.

*The pad: an expression board:* Giving them the tools to develop their own "French space" and helping them to enrich it with their own discoveries from outside the classroom will strengthen their learning. In week 8 of the term we will collect all these notepads; we will choose the best ones and reward their creators. It is important for them to realise that the language is a living matter they can play with.

### *Class content*

Children will have to bring in the **book(s)** they work with (if applicable).

Most of the classes use a storybook or textbook as a supportive resource. It gives a structure to the class, organizes the progression and offers the opportunity for the parent and the child to work or replay French at home. (For teens, the book follows the standards of the Common European Framework of Reference for language. -Not applicable in 2010)

Children are grouped by age and level. Classes consist of varied activities (between 10 and 20 minutes each) with a set routine to ensure dynamic fun in a structured way. The teacher may develop **short term projects** as well with a focus on real functional language to develop the children capacity of initiative, to enhance their creative side and to root their learning meaningful activities. In the end, children will be given the ability to express in French with the help of simple sentences, enriching their vocabulary by at least 150 words a term.

## Class rules

We expect the children to behave in the class as they would at school: they have to follow the classes instructions and work collaboratively in a fun atmosphere where respect of each other and respect of the teacher are key elements. Teen will understand that we wish them to arrive to the class on time. Food consumption has to be discreet and mobiles switched off. Chairs must be placed back and any litter has to be thrown away at the end of the class. Infringement of these rules could lead to warnings and eventually sanctions.

## GROWING THROUGH THE LEARNING PROCESS

### French immersion

As the best way to learn a foreign language is to be immersed, our teachers will speak as much French in the classroom as possible. There will be an initial period of adaptation when the ear and the mind are adjusting to these new French sounds; children might find it funny or scary as they will not understand all of what is being said. However, children will assimilate routines unconsciously and repeat sentences for the pleasure of the sound they produce. Through more practice, they will be amazed at their increasing ability to make sense of the language. This is exactly what happens when they first learn songs in their own language: they memorise the sounds without necessarily understand the meaning.

They will enjoy this new French music and play with the words as with a jigsaw, trying to find the missing parts. Unlike adults the children's phonatory organs have more elasticity, more so before 6yo. They are more alike to reproduce sound correctly. Their lack of inhibition will help also. French for them is a living music rather than a matter to be analyzed.

## Imitation, recreation

Younger children start learning by simple imitation and later on by memorisation. Henceforth repetition is another component of our approach to help the students ground their knowledge. It will help the children assimilate the rules to make them their own. Reorganising their knowledge is another way to enhance the learning and their notepad is extremely important in that regard. At last, reinforcement, imaginary games and recreation will make them put this knowledge into practice.

### Growing with others

Beside their need for games, children need to discover and build themselves. What best than a language to help them? Throughout their encounter with the "other one", looking at other ways to live, they will think back about themselves, about their own way to speak and to live. Learning a language will help them meeting and building themselves. They also will develop a positive attitude towards difference. It is a fantastic asset for our children growing up in a multicultural community to feel like a citizen of the world.

### Fun French in action

Language consists of verbal and non-verbal that children capture naturally. It is very good for the children to experience the language with all their body: music and dance is used for them to play with French and absorb the language quite naturally. It also caters for their need to move around. Games and craft is another way to taste French in action and will help further developing the psychomotor development of the child.

## Communicating

The main goal of the communicative approach is to stimulate oral production: a small number of kids per class ensures that they will be able to take turn to play, to speak and to participate.

## Positive teaching

We enhance as much as possible the kids' curiosity and take into account their previous knowledge, their likings, their need and their expectations. We also believe that errors are part of the learning process in a communicative approach. Please remind your child that errors are positive steps towards improvement.

## SUPPORT YOUR CHILD' LEARNING PROCESS IN CLASS

## Boost their independence

We understand the parents want to attend the first or first two classes with their child and we invite them to do so. It will enable them to get to know the teacher, the way he/she works and his/her expectations.

It will help you encourage and support your child's learning outside the classroom. Nevertheless, we think that the presence of the parent in the class can interfere with the learning process, the concentration of the child and go against the development of his/her autonomy. Parent also may feel obliged to translate to their children which will go against our idea of immersion. For these reasons, we deeply encourage the parents to leave their child alone with the teacher after the first trial class.

You will be able to wait in the gallery looking at the French-speaking channels, the magazines or browsing our library.

The teacher always fill up a sheet summarising the class content & the homework. If you have any questions you always can call us to follow up with your child's course.

## Boost their commitment

If your child misses one class, which we do not recommend, we would be grateful if you could let us know in advance. We also suggest you to get in touch with the teacher or reception to get to know the content of the class and the homework to be done. You can book a private tuition – \$35 for 30 minutes/\$65 for the hour – but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to provide you with a suitable timeslot.

## Boost their consistency

Playing with a new language gives immediate pleasure. Learning it though is a long term project. Consistency is a key to efficiency. You can now enrol your child for a semester (2 terms) or even a full year at a cheaper rate. A long term commitment can stress the importance of the subject in the eyes of your child.

## Reenrolment

If you go for a one term enrolment, please remember to reenrol your child for the following term, possibly before the early bird closing date to benefit from a 10% discount. It will help us reorganize the classes. Please remember that membership is compulsory for all students. It entitles the students to borrow from our resource centre and to obtain special discount on activities.

**PICK-UPS:** Collecting and delivery of young students: Parents must be escort students into the building and make sure that someone comes into the building to collect them. They also have to ensure to be prompt in collecting them. In case parents are late, they have to instruct their child (as we do here) that they must wait in the gallery for collection. It is not acceptable for students to be waiting on Montague Rd for collection.

## SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING PROCESS OUTSIDE THE CLASS

### Extend their exposure to French

Children have to be proactive. They won't learn just by sitting in the class. We recommend you to spend at least an hour with them – broken into short periods of times – outside the classroom; Ten minutes a day will do the trick and set up the "French daily routine". You should revise the content of the class and if possible extend it with readings, screenings.

We encourage you to borrow videos, DVDs and books from the library to play French at home. Please ensure you and your child take care of our books and leave the place as you found it. All the borrowings must be presented to reception. The collection of books is monthly enlarged thanks to the subscription to the well-known selection of "L'école des Loisirs". We also receive magazines for various age groups. [www.afbrisbane.com/fun-stuff/](http://www.afbrisbane.com/fun-stuff/) provides a list of fun websites.

### Participate into our activities

A way to enrich the children's French experience is to attend one or several events organized by Alliance Française. We do provide activities throughout the holidays: one-offs workshops for the younger ones to approach specific themes (Singing, painting, Paris, food...). Revision classes are offered to the teens to overcome their difficulties and gain confidence.

Our calendar also includes social and cultural activities: story time, carnival, circus in French, French Film festival, Bastille day... There they can meet French speaking kids with whom they can make connections; it will give them the feeling they can be part of a larger community.

### Private tuition

We revised our private tuition fees policy for children. Please ask for the new grid of prices. This will enable individuals or small groups to benefit from a native experienced teacher who will specifically work on the children's needs at an affordable rate.

### Products for sale

We do offer a small variety of products for sale to support you child's learning. Please ask reception for advice.

### European certificates

We also offer certification examinations such as DELF, DALF, or TCF for secondary-level aged students.

## YOUR OPINION IS ALWAYS WELCOME

Our teachers and coordinators are always willing to know your opinion. Please do not hesitate to talk to the teacher of your child directly if you have any comments, questions or special requests or to our teaching coordinator (Claire). We rely on your opinions and experiences to help us improve our services to the students.



A bientôt  
à l'Alliance!