

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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This newsletter is posted on the website:  
[www.molescroftprimary.net](http://www.molescroftprimary.net)

From the website it is possible to click on the **SCHOOL BLOG** which is an online photographic diary of life at the school.



## In Olympic Year, it's FRANCE!

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors, Friends, Staff and Pupils

Since 2004, Molescroft Primary School has held a unique International Festival bringing together our Arts, English and Geography Curriculum in a three week inspirational and motivational event for our pupils. In 2004, we toured Europe and in 2005 held an Ambassadors Reception with an intercontinental feast of activities. In 2006, we focussed on Brazil complete with Carnival. Since then we've explored India, China, Arab Nations, Southern Africa, Australia, The United Kingdom, Mexico, Russia, USA, Spain, Japan, the Nordic Lands, the Caribbean, Italy, Thailand, Greece and Cyprus and last year Canada.

This afternoon I was delighted to announce that this year we are focussing on France in Paris Olympic Year. I must at this point pass on my grateful thanks to Mr. Williams and Miss Hakner who have been leading and inspiring the

organising committee (D.I.E.D.R.E) since June to prepare for three weeks of cultural and artistic celebration.

All classes will be looking at the full country considering the human, political, and physical geography as well as the art and culture, flora and fauna of our near neighbour, friend, ally and at times, rival.

Each year group will engage in a major art project.

All children will get the chance to focus on specific arts and cultural aspects including working with French expats to experience a cultural exchange.

On 8th February 2024 the children will be preparing themselves including \*make up for a Mardis Gras Parade in the evening. This will be the opener to the

Festival Evening to which all our parents/carers are invited and is one of the highlights of the year. There will be catering, music and magical experiences. Classrooms will be open to visit to look at work done by the children.

### Vive la France!

*\* Note the make up will not be compulsory.*



## WHERE THE CHILDREN ARE FOCUSING THEIR ATTENTION

Who are the French? It would appear that everyone has an opinion, often conflicting.

This is *“tongue firmly in cheek”*, from a website supporting ex pats living abroad! - Perhaps a useful word anthology for Y6.

*“The typical French person has been described as artificial, elitist, hedonistic, enigmatic, idle, civilised, insular, a hypochondriac, immovable, spineless, a suicidal driver, misunderstood, inflexible, pseudo-intellectual, modern, lazy, disagreeable, seductive, complaining, a philosopher, authoritarian, cultured, gallant, provincial, educated, sophisticated, aggressive, flirtatious, unsporting, egocentric, unbearable, paternalistic, insecure, an individual, ill-disciplined, formal, cynical, unfriendly, emotional, irritating, narrow-minded, charming, unhygienic, obstinate, vain, laid-back, a socialist and a conservative, serious, long-winded, indecisive, convivial, unloved, callous, bad-tempered, garrulous, inscrutable, ambivalent, infuriating, incomprehensible, superior (inferior), ignorant, impetuous, a gastro-maniac, blinkered, decadent, truculent, romantic, extravagant, reckless, sensuous, pragmatic, aloof, chauvinistic, capitalistic, courteous, chic, patriotic, xenophobic, proud, passionate, fashionable, nationalistic, bureaucratic, conceited, arrogant, dishonest, surly, rude, impatient, articulate, chivalrous, brave, selfish, imaginative, amiable, debauched, boastful, argumentative, elegant, egotistical, cold, a good cook,, private, contradictory, political, intolerant, inhospitable, brusque, handsome, an Astérix fan, and above all – wonderfully French!”* ie. displaying all the traits which are found the world over. **Vive la différence! Vive la République! Vive la France ! Vive les Français.**

Each class will have a **food experience** making their own Madelaines and/or Creme Brûlée. In addition they will enjoy a **“French Chocolatier”** session and a **dance workshop** learning the “Can Can”(There are male and female parts). All the children will enjoy a **French mime workshop** as well as a French Musical extravaganza with resident artists **Mambo Jambo**. **Pétanque**. We had hoped to create a legacy pitch at school, but the £8000

price tag was beyond the bank balance! We are looking at more temporary solutions on site.

As always, culturally linked Art projects will provide a major focus. They are as follows:

**Foundation Year** Whole Country and Henri Matisse  
**Year 1** Côte d’Azur, Corsica Bernard Pras portraits using recycled materials

**Year 2** Loire regions Weaving French landscapes inspired by Monet’s water lilies.

**Year 3** Brittany and Normandy Jean Dubuffet (sculpture - withie)

**Year 4** Eastern Regions Architecture (Gothic, Renaissance, Romanesque Rococo and Neoclassic) (sculpture - plastic, cardboard, paper)

**Year 5** Pyrenees Alexandre Malheiro (Digital art)

**Year 6** Paris and Central. Large sculptures: Mardi Gras parade heads.

All the art work will be on display on the festival evening.

The Hall is to be transformed into the **Moulin Rouge** which will be the focus of performances by the children with our special guests Mambo Jambo.

The special evening will follow a full festival day and every child will have a passport which they will bring home to continue their journey through France back at school with parents and carers in the evening and at home.

**The big day is Thursday 8th February 2024 when the children are invited to come to school wearing fancy dress/costume failing that, their brightest and most colourful clothes. Whatever they wear, this also needs to be the outfit for the evening, plus warm coat. Note the children will be making at school a team head dress to wear along with their Mardis Gras make up.**



**On the Final Day, Friday 9th February, our school kitchen will be offering: *Chicken Chasseur*. There will be a vegetarian option.**



**THE INTERNATIONAL NIGHT BEGINS AT 5:30pm**  
**Logistics for a great night.**

We shall begin at 5:30pm on the South Playground with Mardis Gras, after which the festival activities will begin. Children will come home already made up for the carnival but if they wish to be in the parade they will need to be in their classroom by 5:20pm. The Mardis Gras processions will journey from the hall round the promenade to the South Playground and then back to the Moulin Rouge in the hall. The Foundation Stage children and their siblings will wait in the hall for their parents to collect them. All other children will return to their classrooms from which parents can collect their children and then enjoy the activities.

Every class will have a slot in the hall to perform, starting with the Foundation Stage.

In order to facilitate your enjoyment of the evening and the safety of all, I ask that you take a few moments to consider the following:

Like last year, the school corridors are not open however the classrooms are. There will be a collection of activities and food and drink available all around the site and access to the classrooms will be through the exterior classroom doors.

The South Playground pedestrian gates to the site will remain open all evening. However the North Gate will be closed. This is to support security arrangements. **The school main entrance and Foundation Year courtyard will be open to facilitate a full circle route around the site.**



**There will be 2 licensed bars with french beer, wine and Orangina, including at the Moulin Rouge**

**Children may visit their own toilets ON THEIR OWN JUST AS THEY WOULD IN SCHOOL, BUT PLEASE NO ADULTS IN THE CORRIDORS. Adults may use the toilets at the front school reception and the adjacent staff toilets.**

**The Festival Evening highlights are located as follows:**

- Make your own soap
- A french market with fresh fruit and vegetables to order, in French
- Grape pressing
- Make your own crepe
- Rouen faience pottery
- Truffle making
- Paris: The City of Lights. Virtual tour or place key landmark on a map using clues like a treasure hunt
- Medallion pendant necklaces
- Cheese tasting
- Marionette puppet show "Le petit Chaperon rouge"
- Make your own digital masterpiece
- Compete in the Tour de France
- Cannes film festival

**Staff are not looking after children and therefore children must be under the care of a responsible adult. This includes older moles up to and including the age of 15.**

Moles aged 16 and over can attend alone!

**Parking**  
**We all know that parking will be difficult, please be considerate of neighbours' driveways.**

**Tired Children**  
 It is not expected that very young children are still here at 8pm unless of course they have the stamina!  
 I sincerely hope you all have a most memorable evening.  
 Thank you for your support, encouragement and patience particularly if there is a need to queue for a stall or event.

**Don't worry about your evening meal, as indicated we are doing the catering.**

*Our cooks are providing "boeuf bourguignon" with fries. There will be a vegetarian option.*



**WHAT TO WEAR**

As we are moving from room to room via the outside routes, it is recommend that patrons dress for the weather including the chance of rain. Basically prepare as though heading off for Hull Fair's Walton Street.

For the festival day children should come dressed as they would in the evening, this is to prevent make up being smudged before returning to school for the parade. Fancy Dress is ideal otherwise dress up warm and as bright and colourful as possible

Adults, please bring as powerful a torch as you can find to light up the parade, and particularly the carnival heads.

Children can also bring torches to add to the effect.



**YOUR HELP**  
**A parental contribution request**

As parents know, these events are not cheap to organise and are significantly subsidised. In these days of restricted school budgets the fact that we are still able to put together this package is quite remarkable and of course is only possible because of the support of parents. Normally I appeal to parents to contribute per child to the event. I have increased the school contribution to the three week festival but still request a parental donation of just **£7.50**.

This is amazingly good value, particularly when one considers this is for three weeks of adventure; compare this to the cost for a school visit. Remember the funding helps to pay for the specialist support, experts, special materials, ingredients, special projects and the cultural related equipment. I am sure that the children are going to have a thrilling time and will enjoy sharing with you the sights, sounds and colour of France over the next three weeks.

**I will be grateful if the £7.50 payment can be made directly on line at School Money.**

In the past I became aware of a misunderstanding of a few parents that in these three weeks we abandon the Curriculum including Maths and English. I can assure all parents that this is absolutely not the case. We contract the curriculum in terms of hours per curriculum units. English and maths continue regardless, but of course the inspiration of such events must not be underestimated.

What we do is emphasise some of the other subjects, but using the hours we have already contracted to them. So there will be a lot of art, music and geography in these weeks, but over a year the balance is redressed. We certainly won't be abandoning the core curriculum on the days, but our pupils deserve to still enjoy the broad and rich curriculum. There are no two weeks alike at Molescroft Primary School, this is why our pupils are so engaged and enjoy their education.

As we read in the Molescroft Ofsted report in December:

*“The Molescroft motto of ‘Everybody cares, everybody learns, and everybody matters’ is not something that exists on a letterhead, it is something that permeates all aspects of school life. The motto underpins all decisions that leaders make.*

*Leaders have developed an ambitious curriculum. Pupils, including those with additional needs, are supported to achieve highly. Through the vibrant annual international festival pupils learn about the similarities and differences between themselves and those who live elsewhere in the world.”*

Ofsted October 2022

Thank you for your support, without it we cannot continue to offer these amazing extra activities and events.

Together we make a difference.

M.A. Loncaster



Head Teacher

“How wonderful life is while you’re in the world...”

