



French penpal opportunity for year 5 & 6



What is a penpal?

You will be paired with a French pupil who is a similar age to you. You will write to them in French about different things e.g. you, your family, your interests and you will learn about them and their French way of life.

Where is the French school?

Pupils come from a small 'collège' (similar to our middle schools) called 'Collège Saint Joseph, in the village of Machecoul, on the west coast of France approximately 18 miles from the city of Nantes.



How will I know how to write the letter in French?

Each month we will choose a theme for your letter e.g. 'my family' or 'my pets' and we will help you with a basic letter template. We will also teach you how to use a French-English dictionary online to look up the odd word, but no google translate allowed! If you want to ask your teacher for help at breaktime or lunchtime you can of course.

How will we send the letters?

Your French teacher will collate the letters on a set date each month and send them off to the school in one envelope. We will briefly check each letter before we send it off.

Will everyone in year 5 and 6 have one?

No. There are only 12 penpals available for each class. You will need to write a letter to your French teacher explaining why you would like a French penpal. Pupils will be selected based on a combination of the motivation shown in your letter and first come first served.

Your commitment

You must agree to be reliable and meet the monthly deadline as well as promise to spend time and effort on your letter. The more effort that you put in, the more likely it will be that your French penpal will put effort in too. Feel free to add pictures or photos, to make the letter more personal to you and fun to read.

What next?

1. Take this home and discuss it with your family. Make sure that you are going to meet the monthly commitment.

2. Write a letter to Madame Bentley explaining why you would like a French penpal. Address it formally and practise your letter writing skills. Use the following format:

(Today's date)

Dear Madame Bentley,

I would like to have a French penpal because...

Yours sincerely,

(Your name)

3. **Give your letter to Madame Bentley w/c Monday 25th January.** We will let you know by the end of January whether you will be successful in becoming a penpal.

**Any questions? Email Madame Kaler:
lisakaler@petite-etoile.co.uk**