



# BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week starting 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022

## Focus on Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)



- In order to support our parents/carers with MFL homework, please see below information which offer support with Active Learn and with MFL in general.
- Any students who complete 100% of their MFL homework with a score of 75% or more, between now and 12<sup>th</sup> December will receive an invite a brektime treat! This will include a hot chocolate station and a sweet treat!
- Any issues around MFL homework, please do contact Mrs. Lessels

## Supporting your child with MFL lessons

1. Test them on their vocabulary lists. There are a host of ways to learn vocab: using flash cards, sticking post-it notes around the house, grouping words by gender, listing them alphabetically or thematically, making excel spreadsheets and hiding columns. You can test them regularly, sharing the journey to learn new words yourself and helping them find their most effective way to learn.
2. Once they believe they have grasped the formation of a new tense or some new vocabulary, get them to teach it to you.
3. Use the free Duolingo app to progress with them with some healthy competition! Duolingo is a great tool for learning other languages too!
4. Encourage them to speak the language as much as possible. Practising their accent and pronunciation at home will give them more confidence in class.
5. Watch TV in the language being learnt. Using the language for real purposes could include watching a French or Spanish version of a film or TV series on Netflix/Prime etc. Look if the language being learnt is an alternative setting on their favourite films, they can watch them again with you in the foreign language with English subtitles. You'll be surprised how much extra language they pick up.
6. Tap into their interests by encouraging them to listen to music in the foreign language. They can find the lyrics on Google and follow them whilst listening and join in.
7. For success at GCSE, your child will need strong opinions on areas such as school uniform, healthy living, the environment and friends vs. family. Ultimately, they need to have opinions on things and this is of wider importance for their education. They can watch TED talks (with subtitles in the language they're learning) or read online newspapers.

### Useful websites:

- [www.pearsonactivelearn.com](http://www.pearsonactivelearn.com) website where MFL homework is set each week. Students have their own usernames and passwords
- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) lots of practice material in all 4 skill areas in French and Spanish
- [www.languagesonline.com](http://www.languagesonline.com) excellent site for practising grammar points
- [www.verbix.com](http://www.verbix.com) for verb conjugations in every tense
- [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com) online dictionary site
- <https://quizlet.com/en-gb> great for practising vocabulary. Students have details of how to access this in their planners
- <https://app.senecalearning.com> lots of free practice materials in French and Spanish
- <https://app.memrise.com> another vocabulary learning site
- <https://lyricstraining.com> great website for practising listening skills using songs

### Supporting your child with MFL homework

- As part of your child's French or Spanish lessons we ask them to complete homework each week to consolidate the learning that takes place in lessons.
- This homework will be added to Class Charts by your child's class teacher and will consist of learning French or Spanish vocabulary and completing tasks on ActiveLearn.
- ActiveLearn is the online platform we subscribe to and provides students will opportunities to practice reading, listening and vocabulary learning skills.
- I hope that the guide below will support your child in accessing the platform smoothly.

### Help with active learn using a computer/phone

When accessing Active Learn, check the following;

1. Allow pop ups/unblock pop ups (for the duration of them completing the task).
2. Use the correct website [www.pearsonactivelearn.com](http://www.pearsonactivelearn.com) - there is a primary version and this sometimes causes confusion.
3. Type the correct password Biddick1 for all students (with a capital B).
4. Type your username correctly with no gaps or dots and using the capitals given e.g. Mrs Lessels.
5. All students have their own username which should be recorded in their student planner.

If you using Safari (iPhone/iPad) the following may help:

1. Open your settings.
2. Scroll down and select Safari.
3. Under privacy & security, turn off 'prevent cross-site tracking' and 'block all cookies'.

To enable cookies:

1. Open your settings.
  2. Scroll down and select Safari.
  3. Under privacy & security, select 'block cookies'.
  4. Select 'always allow' or 'always allow from websites I visit'.
- These settings should then be changed back once students have completed the tasks set.
  - Your child can contact their class teacher for support if there are still issues logging in.
  - If your child has an issue with computer access, we run MFL homework support club every Wednesday lunch time.