

COMENIUS FESTIVAL MAY 2011

On Monday 23rd May Mr Smith, Miss Grant and Mrs Dickson went to Bordeaux with four children from Class 4 to take part in the Comenius festival. We left Brize Norton at 3.45am all feeling very tired but full of excitement. The journey to the airport went very quickly as the children shared their hopes for the week. On reaching the airport we all had breakfast and then boarded our plane. Before we knew it we were in Bordeaux and on exiting the airport were hit by the heat.

Our first real day was on Tuesday when children from each of our partner countries (Spain, Germany and Poland) joined us. We all sang Frere Jacques in each language and then sang the European anthem and Spanish hello song. During the morning we stayed in school visiting lessons and learning French dances. The afternoon was spent enjoying a treasure hunt of Bordeaux. We had to find certain landmarks and stick photos on a map. On Tuesday evening we went to a local sports stadium for a celebration with all children, parents, teachers and the town municipality. We sang and danced until gone 11pm. Mr Smith had to give a speech in front of everyone. The evening was really fun and we really got to know some of the other children.

In France the children do not go to school on Wednesday and normally teachers have the day off. As it was the festival though, we all went to an amazing sand dune. It was such a hard climb to the top and went on for what seemed like miles. On one side was the ocean and on the other was a forest. It was very strange. After lunch we went to the beach and played ball games and paddled in the sea. It was very cold! In the evening Mr Smith decided we should go into Bordeaux for a meal. We caught the bus and then tram to Place de la Victoire where we had a lovely meal. We had to practise our French when ordering food. The meal lasted so long that we missed the last bus and had to get the tram and two buses before being picked up by Fran. Another late night!

On Thursday we all took part in a festival of water. Each school had prepared two water activities for children to do in groups. Our activity was the 'drainpipe challenge'. We had to transport water in a drainpipe with holes in it across an obstacle. Everyone loved the activity and didn't get too wet. Pierre and Patrick worked with groups to launch water rockets. It rained on and off all day but it did not matter because we got wet anyway.

Overall the week was absolutely amazing. We made lots of new friends and learnt lots about living and going to school in France. Our French even improved!