

Anna MacLeod was in Switzerland and she was linked with Kirkhill Primary in East Renfrewshire.

Un weekend à Paris (<https://angusensuisse.wordpress.com/2016/12/23/un-weekend-a-paris/>)

Bonjour P6! Ça joue? (That's what we say in Switzerland a lot of the time instead of *Ça va?*) In this blog post I'm going to tell you about my trip to Paris with Angus a couple of weeks ago.

I went to visit my *copine*, Noémie. *Elle habite à Paris. Voici notre plan:*

vendredi soir aller en train à Genève et prendre l'avion

samedi visiter tout Paris

dimanche matin prendre le petit-déjeuner et se relaxer avant de repartir pour Fribourg

We managed to visit a lot of places on Saturday.... how well do you know Paris? Do you recognise any of these buildings?

I have been studying French for 10 years and it was my first time in Paris! I'm sure I will be back soon, it was so much fun. I felt so French the whole weekend, talking in French and eating French food: *baguette, croque-madame, omelette aux champignons, raclette* (this is also a Swiss dish).

Have any of you ever visited Paris? What about other parts of France?

à bientôt!

Anna



Gillian McCloy was in Spain and she was linked with St Margaret Mary's Secondary in Glasgow.

Semana Santa

(<http://www.scilt.org.uk/BeyondSchool/LanguageLinkingGlobalThinking/201617/GillianMcCloy/tabid/5768/Default.aspx>)

Hola Chicos

¿Que tal? Cuanto tiempo...

Here in Malaga, we just had one week holiday. Did you know it is called "Semana Santa" or Holy week? Throughout the week there are processions and celebrations in cities and villages all over the country which celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. These start at 8 o'clock at night and some don't finish until 2 or 3 in the morning.



You can find some links on YouTube that will give you an idea of what these processions are like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU6Aqwq-Cl8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLGUTtDuMvw>

For me, it was really amazing. As you can see, the streets were really crowded; the smell of incense was heady and added to the sombre ambience.



Above you can see a picture of a child holding a ball of wax... *una bola de cera*. This is a tradition in Malaga where children walk up to *penitentes* and ask them to pour wax onto these ball shaped wax from their candles (*velas*) They return each year and ask them to pour more and more onto it so it can be made bigger and bigger.

Traditional dishes and pasties (*platos y postres*): we tried *torrijas*, which is a sort of French toast. I think this would be easy enough to try at home and I am pretty sure that all of you will have the ingredients in the cupboard. I made my own at home... they were pretty good, but the ones we had in a cafe were amazing!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63SJ397gwq8>

Do you reckon that you could make them?

Iain Millar was in France and he was linked with Dunfermline High in Fife.

Quelques réponses à vos questions

<http://www.scilt.org.uk/BeyondSchool/LanguageLinkingGlobalThinking/201617/IainMillar/tabid/5751/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/9784/Quelques-reponses-a-vos-questions.aspx>

Bonjour à tous à Dunfermline High! First, *un grand merci pour toutes vos questions!* In this blog I'm going to focus on answering your questions and I'm going to give you a fuller update on my first month in Paris next week! Stay tuned...

Q.1 Have you made any new friends?

Bonne question! Bien sûr, I've made lots of new friends - many of them are other assistants de langue like me that I've met at what we call '*stages d'accueil*' - a sort of initial training day for language assistants. I've also tried to meet more French friends but I've found it is a bit more challenging! It can even seem a bit bewildering in such a big city like Paris. Luckily the teachers in my school are all friendly and I've managed to make friends with them. They often give me lifts home in their cars and teach me lots of funny French expressions haha! I also managed to go to my first francophone party and I managed to speak French for almost the whole time!

Q2. Do most people walk or cycle around Paris?

In general, I would say most people walk around Paris because the metro system is so good I think it's easier to walk and take the metro! However, there are lots of 'Velib' cycle hire stations around the city where you can use your transport card to hire a bike and the first 30 minutes are free! I'm working up the courage to have a go! Finally, lots of people use *trotinettes* and skateboards to get around the city too!

Q3. How is your school? Were you nervous before you started teaching?

I'm really happy with my school! In France they still have a sort of Grammar School system and my school is a '*lycée polyvalant*' which is a combined vocational and grammar school. That means there are pupils there learning everything from standard French and maths to electronics and marketing. My school is also what is called a 'ZEP' school (*zone d'éducation prioritaire*) which means it gets extra funding to reduce class sizes and to buy textbooks etc. This means that lots of pupils in my school come from less well-off backgrounds but I've found they are all motivated by learning English and they enjoyed learning about Scotland. They were particularly impressed by Glasgow's Hydro Arena and they are intrigued to try Irn Bru! Actually, I wasn't too nervous before I started teaching because we had lots of training before. Also, I taught some classes in Italy over the summer so it was a similar situation! What was more nerve racking was going into the staff room for the first time and having to make conversation with all the other teachers *en français!*

Q4. What different types of food have I tried that is different?

Well first I never thought that so many types of cheese existed!! Every trip to the supermarket or *fromagerie* I try to buy a different type to try! I've also tried Croc Monsieur which is an amazing French version of a cheese and ham toastie as well as traditional French onion soup which has big

pieces of (you guessed it!) cheesy bread inside the bowl! There are also lots of different pastries, and cakes that I still need to work my way through.

Q5. Is where I live nice?

I live in Neuilly-sur-seine which is right between the Arc de Triomphe and La Défense. It's a nice area and it's full of families and people who work in the business district. I also live just across from the Bois de Boulogne where there are lakes, *un grand musée d'art moderne* and the national horse riding centre!

My flat itself is very small but the upside is that I can reach my fridge and kettle all without leaving my bed haha! One room studio flats like this are quite common in Paris where there isn't very much space and people still want their own flats! I like it though!

Q.6 Is your school ethnically diverse?

I would say my school is very ethnically diverse. In fact, in my first week of lessons I had some interesting discussions with the pupils about the idea of where people come from and where they identify as being from. They asked me 'what me origin is' and they seemed a bit shocked that my parents were 'just Scottish' haha. There are a lot of pupils in my school from former French colonies like Algeria, and Morocco but many from Turkey too!

Q.7.What is the school day like?

The first thing that shocked me about the school day is that it is much longer than the school day in the UK. Classes start at 8:30am and don't finish until 5:30pm. However, it would be quite unusual for a pupil to have classes all day - often pupils have free periods throughout the week which means that pupils are often hanging around the school during class times or they even go home for a while and come back. There is a morning and afternoon break for 15 minutes and we get one hour for lunch at 12:30pm. I've included a picture of my timetable which looks quite blank as I only work 12 hours a week but at least it might give you an idea. As a challenge see if you can work out what all the different letters mean – it's quite difficult!

Keep sending me questions and look out for my next update very soon!

***Les mots clés* – Key Words**

Un grand merci pour toutes vos questions – A big thank you for all your questions

Bonne question – Good question

Bien sûr – Of course

Stages d'accueil – Introductory training

Trotinettes – Scooters

Zone d'éducation prioritaire – Priority Education Zone

En français – In French

Fromagerie – Cheese shop

Un grand musée d'art moderne – A big modern art museum

Lisa Burns was in China and she was linked with Loanhead Primary in Midlothian.

How's the food here? (<https://lisabptblog.wordpress.com/2017/06/02/how-the-food-here/>)

To begin, Chinese food in the U.K is absolutely nothing like food in mainland China, it's also true that the Chinese eat all meals with chopsticks. Chopsticks are very difficult to get to grips with initially, but when you have to eat every meal with a pair you have no choice but to quickly pick up how to use them. We had chopstick lessons when we first arrived in China which was a great help.

Food is a massive part of Chinese culture. As such, every area in China is famous for something to do with food. Jiangxi, the province where I live is famous for spicy food. At first this was a challenge but I'd say I'm fairly used to spicy food now. I just have to remember to ask for yì diǎn diǎn (a little spice)



Even after 9 months here I still can't stomach a full Chinese breakfast. Breakfast is usually the largest meal, with noodles, dumplings, baozi, jiaozi and steamed bread (keeping in mind this is served in the canteen at 7am). I am happier with some fruit.



The school's canteen is next door to our apartment which could not be more convenient. Meals cost just 3.5 Yuan and consist of a bowl of stir fried Chinese vegetables (lotus root being a common occurrence) and a bowl of rice. We normally go to the canteen for lunch and dinner as it's so easy and cheap. It also gives us to chance to socialise with our students. Some days the selection of vegetables and meat is a little too adventurous for us but the canteen chefs are great – if you go through the back to the kitchen they have lots of veg out that you can choose from, and for just 2.5 Yuan more they will cook you a dish of your choosing.

Recently we have ventured out to eat at lunch, the food is the same price as the canteen and the rice tends to be softer as it's not cooked on coals. The only issue is we have to battle through the dense crowds of students...on bikes.

Natalie Cochrane was in Spain and she was linked with Braehead Primary in Stirling.

<https://nataliemivaje.wordpress.com/>

This is an extract from a live Twitter chat Natalie had with the school:

Braehead to Natalie: Hola Natalie! Que Tal? Archie would like to ask how Christmas is celebrated in Spain?

Joseph would like to know if there were souvenir stalls at the Alhambra?

Paige would like to know what people eat at Christmas? Is it Turkey? How do you say turkey in Spanish?

Natalie to Braehead: Hola everyone! Muy bien gracias. Archie what a great question, thank you!! Christmas is celebrated here on the 24th of December and this is when the family has a large Christmas dinner. However, the 6th of January is more important as on this date children receive gifts from 'los Reyes Magos' or the '3 wise kings'.

Braehead: Leah asks 'How did you make the Christmas tree and how long did it take?

Natalie to Joseph - Yes, there was lots of little shops and I bought some tea from Granada and lots of Christmas presents for my family :) Paige - great question! 'Pavo' is the word for turkey, but Spanish people tend to eat fish and different kinds of meat. We are having our Christmas dinner in the flat tomorrow and will be eating prawns from Huelva, tortilla and lots of tapas!

Natalie: Leah, thanks for your question!! We made the Christmas tree with cardboard and spray painted it green! Then we added the bobbles. However, we are still looking for a star, do you know how we could make our star?

Braehead: Paige says you could cut out a star template from cardboard and then spray paint it silver. Leah says you add a piece of paper, spray it silver and make it into a cone shape. Then tape it together.

Do the children in Spain get toys for Christmas? from Joseph...

Natalie: What a great idea, thank you Leah and Paige! Yes Joseph, the children get lots of toys from the Wise men on the 6th of January! How lucky! :) What part of the Granada blog did you like best?

Braehead: Leah liked the map. Paige liked the photo from the tower, Joseph liked the enormous Palace and Archie liked the fountains. Mr French liked the Bull and Tortilla!



Braehead: When do you travel home to Scotland? The children say that you should remember to bring Scott and your Jacket home as it has been muy frio aqui!

Braehead: What was the best food you tasted in Granada? Archie asked if you have the same shops and supermarkets?

Natalie: Excellent! I liked the bull too, it was so huge! I come home to Scotland on the 22nd of December, I only have 2 weeks left. I am very very excited. Yes, everyone has told me that it is very cold at home!! The best food was the tortilla but the most exotic food I tasted was 'chocos' or 'cuttlefish'....


Braehead: Leah feels sorry for the fish. She says it looks like a cross between an eel, zebra

and a frog! 

Braehead: Joseph asks 'What does it taste like'?

Does the fish change colour? from Paige


I do too!! It actually doesn't taste like fish, it tastes like chips!! Mmmm. Yes, the fish changes colours. The cuttlefish fish is always served fried in Huelva! Do you think you would try this fish?


Braehead: 50% say yes 50% say no... 

Braehead: Were there lots of perfume smells from the museum? Did you buy any? from everyone?

Braehead: Do you miss anything from Scotland?



Natalie: Yes, the smells were lovely. For example, lavender, rosemary and lots more!! I didn't buy any, but I could smell the perfume for hours!! Wow!! I think it's cool to try new

things :) Yes!! I miss my family, friends and also, shortbread!!  Natalie: What is the

weather like at home? 

Braehead: Its cold and frosty...there might for Christmas!

Braehead: Are you visiting any places this week?


It's 20 degrees here this week, not too cold  . I don't think I am as we have a Christmas dinner in the flat tomorrow and I will send lots of pictures of the food and my Spanish friends. Where do you think I should visit next?

Archie suggests Malaga?

Natalie: What a great choice! My flatmate lives in Malaga, so I'm sure I will visit there.

Braehead: Primary 6 have a challenge for you if you wish to accept? Can you Dab in front of a famous monument in Huelva!

Natalie: What an excellent challenge!!

Natalie: I will make sure to do so and take a photo 

Braehead: GRACIAS!!!!      

Braehead: We need to go back to class! Muy mal!

Natalie: De nada (you're welcome)!!     I'm glad you are all enjoying the blog!!!

Hasta luego!!  Speak to you all next week!!

Braehead: Adios!!!! Gracias para the Blog and your time!

Natalie: Adios   

Rozenn Ansquer was in France and she was linked with St Pius X Primary School in Dundee.

Noel a Grenoble!

<http://www.scilt.org.uk/BeyondSchool/LanguageLinkingGlobalThinking/201617/RozennAnsquer/tabid/5738/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/9906/Noel-a-Grenoble.aspx>

Bonjour!

The Christmas spirit has arrived in Grenoble! With only two weeks left to the first part of my journey studying and living in France I must admit this has been my favourite part so far. In the town centre, lots of Christmas stalls have been set up selling all different kinds of treats, from toys and cosy socks to crepes, mulled wine, and the famous French cheese raclette! I also heard Father Christmas will be paying a visit too! It has turned very cold here in Grenoble so I am well wrapped up with my scarf and gloves, I also spot lots of snow up on the mountains around me! Grenoble is covered in Christmas lights and decorations too, making the centre look very pretty at night time!

I am looking forward to coming back to Dundee to see all my family and friends, and of course receiving an exciting visit from Santa Claus (I hope he doesn't think I'm still in France!) My favourite thing about Christmas in France has got to be le marché de Noël, I think I may have visited just about every day, it is magical!

What is your favourite thing about Christmas?

What are you putting on your list to Santa Claus this year?

La fête de Noël - some French Christmas vocabulary! :)

- Papa Noël
- Le marché de Noël
- Le vingt-cinq décembre
- Un sapin de Noël
- Le repas de Noël
- La musique de Noël
- Des cadeaux
- Une carte de Noël
- Vin chaud
- Une chaussette
- Un sucre d'orge
- Un bonhomme de neige
- Une étoile
- Le traîneau du Pere-Noël

A bientôt Primary 6, I hope you all have an amazing Christmas and a very happy new year!!