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**Shine as Lights in the World**  
**Philippians 2.15**

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Welcome to our latest curriculum newsletter!

*“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.” — Frank Smith, British Psycholinguist*

At Wychwood School we strongly value the importance of learning other languages. Language learning helps us to develop analytical thought, communication skills and problem solving. Furthermore, finding out about other cultures enable us to “shine as lights in the world” by understanding and respecting countries and cultures different to our own.

In our lessons, we encourage pupils to take learning risks, to ask questions, to observe patterns and to confidently try out new language, learning from mistakes as part of our journey. Through songs, stories and games we explore first French, and then German as we move from single words to complex sentence structures. Our aim is for pupils to become confident language learners, keen to learn more, with a solid understanding of how languages work and compare. Many of our students continue to achieve great things in secondary school at GCSE level and beyond. And once you have learned one additional language it can open doors to so many more!

Over the course of this year, your child will be exploring the following -

Key Stage	Autumn	Spring	Summer
LKS2 (French)	Greeting people, saying our names & how we are feeling; basic French phonics; Colours; learning some songs & rhymes	More colours with songs & stories; numbers 0-12; Clothes & how “gender” works; continued French phonics	Numbers 12-20; Clothes & colours – how do adjectives work with gender?; describing our favourite outfits
UKS2 (German)	Greeting people & saying our names & ages; numbers 0-12; German phonics	Saying where we live; describing the weather there	Describing where we live; discussing how “gender” works in German; giving opinions



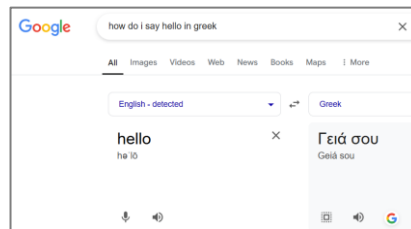
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## **Things you can do outside of school**

If you are lucky enough to get the chance to go abroad, try and learn at least some basics of that language – hello, goodbye, please, thank you, etc. Just having a go is the first step to language confidence, and native speakers will think you're amazing!

There are lots of different apps and websites available to help you do this, but you can start with a simple Google search at [www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk) – it will even have audio for you to listen to.



### [www.duolingo.com](http://www.duolingo.com)

If you want to practice the languages you know, or even learn a new one, Duolingo is a really fun, free app and website. It has loads of languages to choose from and it teaches you through interactive games and quick, bite-sized lessons. You can earn points and unlock new levels while gaining real-world communication skills. It is ideal for children to learn, but great fun for the whole family – why not start a family challenge to see who can gain the longest streak?

### <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zdmtsbk>

This BBC website offers teaching and games in French, Mandarin and Spanish aimed at KS2 students. However, why not try their KS3 resources for German as well!

### [Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas Market](#)

If you would like to experience the closest thing we have to a “proper German Christmas Market” in the UK, Birmingham is not too far away!

The city’s popular Frankfurt Christmas Market is set to return in November to bring some festive cheer back to the city centre in the run up to Christmas, with stalls selling a tempting array of food and drink, traditional toys, ornaments and gifts. The market will open on Friday 1 November 2024, bringing with it the festive aroma of hot gluhwein, schnitzel and spicy sausage, which will fill New Street and Victoria Square. The big wheel and ice rink is also due return to Centenary Square. For more information about the city’s Frankfurt Christmas Market, please visit [www.thebfc.com](http://www.thebfc.com)

## **Things to watch**

Did you know that most streaming channels offer the option of different language settings? So why not try dubbing your favourite TV programme into German and see how often you can pick out a word you know? Or add some subtitles in French and see if you can match them to what is being said? This is a fantastic way of “tuning your ears” into other languages.

<https://www.youtube.com>

You can search You Tube to find a vast array of songs and videos in different languages (*parental supervision required*). You can even find Peppa Pig in German or Bluey in French!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/lingo-show>

An fun programme for younger children teaching some basic language skills in a variety of languages through songs.

### **Book recommendations**

We have a variety of children's books in French and German in school. If your child would like to borrow one, just ask Madame Smith/Frau Schmidt.

### **Other news**

In April 2025 we will once again be taking our Year 4 students to the Burford School Languages day. Students will get the chance to experience a range of activities in French, German and Spanish, taught by the Year 9 Language Leaders.

And look out for our own Wychwood Language Leaders! 12 students from KS2 have volunteered to run playground games in French for the whole school, to help with our International Week café, and to plan and to teach a languages lesson to our KS1 classes next year. Their role is to raise the awareness of language-learning across the school and to act as amazing role models to our other students.

Thank you for your support.

Madame Smith/Frau Schmidt  
Modern Foreign Languages Lead