

La Lettre Jèrriaise - Marianne Sargent - Lé 5 dé Févri 2022

Hello everyone. It is me again, Marianne Sargent, with your Lettre Jèrriaise this week and I have some good news.

I have been based at Plat Douet Primary School since September, where I teach weekly lessons to children across the school from year 2 up to year 6. It has been a great experience so far and the children have been very excited to learn the language. I make good use of Joan Tapley's nursery rhymes in the younger classes, where we sing to learn colours and numbers. Then further up the school we learn key vocabulary through a variety of classroom games. It is lovely to be based in one place, where the children experience continuity of provision and I can see progression in their learning. Everyday when I am walking in the school corridors I am greeted with smiling faces and calls of 'bouônjour!'

Unfortunately, the dreaded Covid struck again last Christmas and this term we have been particularly badly affected in schools, where some of our classrooms have been down to five or six pupils on some days. We realised our plans for a live Eisteddfod were impossible, with the return of mask wearing and working from home in January and a tightening up of measures within school.

So we decided to take the junior section online again this year. However, instead of recording the children's performances we went live. The teaching team went out into schools, where the children performed in front of a camera to our Adjudicateur Winston Le Brun and his Adjoint Ken Vibert, who were based in the committee room at St Ouen's Parish Hall. Over the two days more than 160 children took part from 11 primary and secondary schools. It was brilliant. Michael Blackie, the chairman of the Jersey Eisteddfod, popped in to watch on the Friday afternoon, commenting that he had enjoyed the online event very much. The only thing missing as a result of not going live, he said, were Maureen's wonders!

And I have good news about the adult section, which will be going ahead this year after all. Now that Covid numbers are falling again we are looking forward to a live event at St Ouen's Parish Hall on Saturday 26th March. Save the date! We are hoping to get as many people up on the stage as possible, so if you are interested in taking part please get in touch with committee secretary Colin Ireson on 726871. The event will be taking place as part of the March Assemblée meeting. If you would like come please phone the Le Brun family on 739341 to put your name down.

And a quick update. Last summer I wrote about my son's friend Peter, who has been receiving treatment for neuroblastoma. Wonderful news. The last round of radiotherapy was successful and he travelled to the USA last week to begin a clinical trial that aims to keep him in remission. We are keeping everything crossed for the treatment's success.

Until the next time everyone. Take good care of yourselves and stay safe. Goodbye for now.