



17.01.14

Italian at Springfield Lower School

We began teaching Italian at Springfield about 8 years ago. To begin with it was taught as a bolt on subject to Year 4 by a student who spoke Italian. As it progressed so the staff realised the potential of teaching Italian rather than French. Bedford is home to over 20,000 people with Italian origins. There are numerous Italian shops, restaurants and pizzerias as well as other companies.

Are related to what they are learning about.

There are many other reasons for teaching Italian:

- the warm, kind affectionate nature of the Italian people, making it easy for children to show what they can do.
- The pure phonetic language which gives our children a chance to practise their phonics.
- The amazing art and architecture which can be brought into their learning.
- The different cultural aspects and of course the importance of family values.



Italians are very proud of their heritage which makes practising Italian really possible for our pupils.

Our teaching has changed some what since then. We now teach Italian as an integral part of the curriculum. All the teachers plan alongside an Italian teacher from the consulate to ensure lessons

- Great food and recipes that can be shared.

What happens now:

The children learn Italian from Reception. They have the opportunity to talk to native speakers and learn to sing Happy Birthday and other simple songs, they answer the register in Italian and follow simple instructions. They begin to listen to simple stories.

From Year 1 to Year 4 they learn Italian connected to the topic they are studying so for example this term, in year 1-2 they are learning words connected with space then various songs and activities to practice the language.

By the time they are in Year 3-4 their lessons are in Italian. The instructions are given in Italian and they are used to using another language. The children are taught to value the culture, the country and learn so much.

Each year we hold an Italian day when children play 'scopa' with Italian playing cards, learn to make Tiramisu, dance the Tarantella and have a go at 'bocce'.



We also give the opportunity to Year 4 children to visit our partner school in Copertino near Brindisi, where they have the opportunity to go to an Italian school, see some historical buildings, learn some history and of

course eat lots of Italian food with Italian friends.



Our aim is to pass on a love for the Italian language and culture.

Without the support of our consulate teacher Giusi, we would not be able to do this.

We hold open days during the year to showcase our work.

If you would like further information please contact us at :
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