



Dear Parents, chers Parents, liebe Eltern,

First at all, I wanted to wish you all a very happy new year. Europa school had an exceptional year in 2014, crowned by two very good inspections, and is looking forward to its future development. In this connection, our accreditation as European school is very good news. We have thereby reached another vital step for our school after the Ofsted report.

As you know, 2015 will see the development of our school by the opening in September of a Reception Español-English class (REE). This is a new sign of the success of Europa school and a new challenge too; we will become bigger, with a richer offering, and although it will of course be more complex to manage, at the end of the day, we will be stronger.

Communication

It has been a long time since I last sent my regular letter to all the parents of the school. Even though a lot of parents let us know they are happy to receive numerous emails from the school, we feel we need to improve the global school communication scheme, and rationalise it. It is a work in progress, but you may have already noticed that the Reception and Dési now regularly send useful and practical information - the Head of Primary global communication on the school, important events and projects and the Principal strategic communications regarding ESUK. With the input of teachers, we will, at the end of term add to this a pedagogical aspect, sharing with you on a termly basis some pedagogical choices we have made and discussions we have had within the school, on such subjects as Maths, Literacy or Languages.

Our teachers have started working hard on the reports you will receive some time before the half-term break. They have this year a new shape and content; we think they will be clearer.

Events

Last Friday, **La Befana and Los Reyes Magos** visited our school, for the great pleasure of our pupils. The Italian witch and Spanish Wise Men were very welcome, and their show has well prepared us for the degustation of the "**galette des rois**" that the French classes will share with their German peers.

On Thursday 22nd January, the school will receive an important guest: **Korky Paul**. He is the multi-awarded author who illustrated very famous children's books, including Winnie the Witch, The Dog That Dug, The Rascally Cake, etc. He will work with the children all day long, offering different workshops designed for the classes' levels, and at the end of the day, there will be a nice Book Signing time, when all the parents are invited and Korky Paul will autograph his books. You can take your own book with you for this, or buy one. You can order his books through the school; we have arranged for the books to be delivered to the school for the 22nd with *Mostly Books*, Abingdon. You will receive tomorrow a list of suggested books, and the instructions for ordering them. It is a major event for our pupils, meeting an author of books they read in school or at home, which will encourage them to read more books and perhaps inspire them to become young authors and illustrators themselves.

Just before closing this letter, I'd like to spare a thought about what happened last week in Paris and around France. About 4 million people in the country demonstrated in the streets last Sunday for an unprecedented anti-terror and "freedom of speech" rally, in which the European heads of states took part, including Angela Merkel and David Cameron alongside the French Président François Hollande. It helps put our European accredited and multicultural school into context. *Bravo et merci*.

Kind regards, bien cordialement, mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Culham, 12.01.2015

Pascal Maréchau, Head of Primary.