

## **Rob speaking to Laurence Tonnel, teaching English at Les Hirondelles school**

Rob: I'm in the school of Les Hirondelles in Montreff near Carhaix and I'm with Laurence Tonnel who is leading a group of very enthusiastic children. Tell me about the group...

Laurence: Very motivated children. I like to teach them that English can be fun and next year they will be in middle school when they will have to sit down while they learn it. So this is the last time they can actually act and play with the language and learn the language a fun way. So they run, they walk, they laugh, but they learn.

Rob: These children, there are eight of them?

Laurence: 8 of them each time, I didn't want more than that. I used to teach classes, huge classes of thirty children who were so frustrating because they couldn't move. So they had to learn action verbs without doing any action ...and I always thought one day when I retire

Rob: You're a retired teacher but you're not retired, are you

Laurence: I will do action verbs with actually doing something. We're going to show you what they do when I say "Faites ce qu'on dit et dit ce qu'on fait". All right? It's going to make a lot of noise...

Rob: Excellent..

Laurence: Alright, alright..... All in a line. I can run... I can stop, I can walk back, I can stop, I can run back, I can stop, I can jump on one foot, I can stop, I can skip on one foot, almost the same, I can skip back...yes why not ..good, very good, alright..

Rob: So we've got 8 children here, who are in the last year of primary school, if I'm not mistaken.

Laurence: Some of them are in the last year and some of them in the previous year, just the year before last, and right now the noise you hear is because we're learning about food and shopping... So we learned about fruit and vegetables, different categories and right now they have a list of errands and they have to bring me what's on the list.... Ok, you finished? Are you ready? Come on you've got one more minute. I'm counting, one more minute. Have you finished? What have you got, what's on your list? What have you got? You've got what

Children : uhhh lemon, uhh orange, ice cream, bread, no.

Laurence: You don't have bread? What it is in french? Le pain,

Rob: and off they go...



Laurence: bread, you've got bread, good and then...

Children: mushroom

Laurence: mushroom.. good and then...

Children: tomato and water

Laurence: Water, a can of water, a little can of water... Where is it... Yes, you're right, go bring it....Get it, Yes, very good...

Children: Hello, hello, this is my friend Mia,  
Nice to meet you, nice to meet you...  
This is my friend Lois.....  
Hello Lois.... Nice to meet you. Where are you going? I'm going to play swimming..  
you're going swimming ... Can we go? Oh oooo, let's go, let's go....

Rob: Laurence, why do you think it's important to learn English?

Laurence: Oh my god... Ahhh.. it's part of your working life now, when you travel, it's the universal language. It's just the language you need to know when you want to work, when you want to travel, when you want to communicate, when you want to read. You just have to know it and we should learn it. The first day of school, we should start and learn it. I love teaching, I love the English language and I taught so many different levels from young children to university level and I still enjoy it.

Rob: Ok, Thank you very much for allowing me to come and join your class.

Laurence: You're welcome.

Rob: and I've learnt a lot.

Laurence: Thank you

Rob: Thank you Laurence.