



Autumn/Winter 2009 Newsletter

¡Hola! Welcome to the Autumn 2009 issue of the Little Linguists newsletter. I hope you have all been enjoying the term so far and have learnt lots of Spanish!

In this newsletter you'll find an update on Little Linguists and details of some important changes that will be coming in after Christmas, which will hopefully make the lessons even more user friendly for you. There are also details of new classes and the term dates for next term.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and thank you for your continued support.

Update

This term we are continuing to run group classes in Baldock, Letchworth, Royston, Harpenden and Hertford for children from 3 years. We are also running lunch clubs and after school clubs in primary schools across Hertfordshire, in addition to lots of private groups and 1-1 and 2-1 sessions. We are now also offering Spanish classes to day nurseries and pre-schools across the county and have started to teach French in day nurseries in certain areas. We will also be starting classes in January in St Albans (at last!) and details will follow later in the newsletter.

Our network of tutors has grown considerably and we can now offer a comprehensive range of tuition in all major European languages across all age groups, all levels of ability and for all purposes – including children, private coaching, for business and commercial purposes and for GCSE and A level. Our rates are extremely competitive so please pass on our details if you have any friends who may be interested.

You can find details of all the different types of courses that we can offer on our website www.littlelinguists.org.uk or either give me a call on 01763 288361 or e-mail me on suzanne@thesnowdons.com for more information.

Big changes for 2010!

- **Activity packs**

I have been aware for some time that it gets difficult to keep all the Little Linguists materials, worksheets, homework etc together and that from week to week bits and pieces can get misplaced or even not come home. From January 2010 as soon as you pay in full for the term, you will receive a binder containing all the material for the term – this includes all the crib sheets, all the worksheets and all the homework together in one bound document. The binder will also contain copies of the games and activities enjoyed in the lessons along with additional activities and suggestions of things that you can do and play at home with your child to consolidate their learning. The binder will cost £7.50 per term per child – that's less than 75p a week - (plus £1.00 p&p) but will be completely **free of charge** if you pay for next term on or before January 1st.

- **iViva St Albans!**

At long last we are starting classes in St Albans. The classes will be starting in January and will run on Wednesdays after school. I already have a lot of people interested and please let your friends know so they can reserve a space early. As usual there will be a pre-school/reception class and a Year 1 and upwards class. The classes will be starting with Syllabus 1.

- **French for day nurseries and pre-schools now available**

Little Linguists is now available in French! We have a French syllabus up and running and are able to offer French for pre-schools and day nurseries in Harpenden, St Albans, Letchworth and Baldock. If there is sufficient interest then we may be able to start day-time classes in French for pre-school children run along the same lines as the general Little Linguists groups.

- **Changes to payment details**

From January 2010 I'm afraid that teachers will no longer be able to accept payment for the course in the classes – all payments are to be made to the office directly, either by a cheque in the post or by BACS. This is to ensure that I can get the course binders out to you immediately upon receipt of payment and also to avoid any misunderstandings about payments. These changes will be detailed on the letter you receive confirming the course details.

- **The Language Shop**

In the New Year, we are also hoping to launch a new venture – The Language Shop. The Language Shop will offer corporate language tuition in all major European languages across Hertfordshire and into London, Essex and Bedfordshire. A wide range of business language services will be available including language audits, personalized language training plans, progress reports and, of course, high quality and extremely professional language training.

Little Linguists will also continue to offer language tuition to older children and adults in all major languages for general and exam purposes – including GCSE and AS and A2 Level.

Younger Siblings and classroom stuff

As you know, we warmly welcome younger siblings into the classes free of charge up to the age of 30 months and up to 36 months if they are not actively participating in the classes. They are also invited to take part in any activities that are appropriate to their age group and that they are interested in. They do however sometimes find it difficult to stay concentrated for the full session and can occasionally become distracting to the other children. This is especially the case with some of our busier classes and, as such, if you feel that your little one is causing a distraction, I would be very grateful if you could bring along some toys, crayons etc to keep them entertained and happy and to allow the older children to focus on their class.

Don't forget – there should always be an adult responsible for each child in the classroom – this is to help your child with activities and also other things that they may need – like toilet trips and to deal with runny noses!!

Current Classes

Royston	Mondays 3.45-4.15pm Mondays 4.30-5.00pm	Pre-school - Year 1 Key Stage 1 plus
Letchworth	Tuesdays 3.45-4.15pm	Pre-school - Year 1
Harpenden	Tuesdays 3.45-4.15pm Tuesdays 4.30-5.00pm	Pre-school - Year 1 Key Stage 1 plus
St Albans	Wednesdays 3.45-4.15pm Wednesdays 4.30-5.00pm	Pre-school - Year 1 Key Stage 1 plus
Baldock	Thursdays 3.45-4.15pm Thursdays 4.30-5.00pm	Pre-school - Year 1 Key Stage 1 plus
Hertford	Thursdays 3.45-4.15pm Thursdays 4.30-5.00pm	Pre-school - Year 1 Key Stage 1 plus

Christmas Wish List

Below are some of the materials that we use in the classes and also that we would recommend to help you practice Spanish at home with your child and to make learning fun:

- Let's Sing and Learn In Spanish – Neraida Smith – Book and audio CD

This contains favourites such as *Cabeza, Cintura; Arriba Abajo* and *Uno No Tengo Ninguno*. It comes with a book with the words and also the music so if you can play an instrument you can also play the songs at home.

- Hop, Skip and Sing in Spanish – Anna Lomba – mini-book and audio CD

We also use songs from this in the lessons quite a lot. It comes with the lyrics to the songs and on the CD you also have an introduction to each song where the lyrics are explained so that the songs are easier to understand. This also contains lots of catchy rhymes and children's games.

- Spanish On The Move For Kids – Catherine Bruzzone – guide and CD

This contains a selection of songs in Spanish designed to play in the car. It comes with a book with the lyrics and each song is introduced and the lyrics explained before it is sung. Some quite catchy songs and children seem to love them.

- Teach Me Spanish - Judy Mahoney – Book and audio CD

This has some quite catchy common nursery rhymes and songs in both English and Spanish. There are some old favourites like *Twinkle, Twinkle* etc that the children love.

Next term dates.....

Monday 11 January – Friday 26 March 2010

Half term: 15-19 February

Please check your individual course confirmation letter for your specific course dates as there may be some local changes due to teacher and room availability and other unavoidable events.

PRICE FREEZE! You'll be pleased to know that prices for the general group classes will be remaining the same as this term. These are £5.50 per session and £3.95 for siblings. This is a ten week term and the cost therefore for one child will be £55.00 and for a younger sibling £39.50. **Please do check your individual course confirmation letter for details specific to your group.**

Please don't forget that you will receive all the course materials and extra activities in a bound document as soon as you pay for your course. The cost for this is £7.50 per term (+ £1.00 p&p)

If you book and pay for your course before 1st January you will receive the binder absolutely free of charge.

I hope that you will be continuing with us next term. As usual, I will reserve all existing students a place in their current class unless advised otherwise. If for any reason you do not wish to continue or your schedule is changing and you need to change class, I would be very grateful if you could let me know as soon as possible before the end of term. I can then offer places to children on the waiting lists.

Money saving offers from Little Linguists....

- Recommend a friend – if you recommend Little Linguists to a friend, they can enjoy their first lesson free of charge. If they then join the group you will receive a lesson free of charge the following term. There is no limit to this offer – the more friends you introduce, the more free lessons you will receive. Please ask them to mention your name at the time of booking!
- First lesson free (for new and returning Little Linguists) – the first lesson has always been a completely no obligation free trial. I am happy now to extend that offer to children who may have had a break from Little Linguists – maybe they had ballet or swimming at the same time or started school and were finding it all a bit much. Returning Little Linguists and their siblings can now enjoy their first lesson back for free. Come along and see how you get on!
- Book and pay early – If you book and pay for your course next term before 1st January you will receive the binder completely free of charge.

I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and look forward to a happy and Spanish speaking 2010!

iFeliz Navidad!