



Gaelic Classes

Information for parents

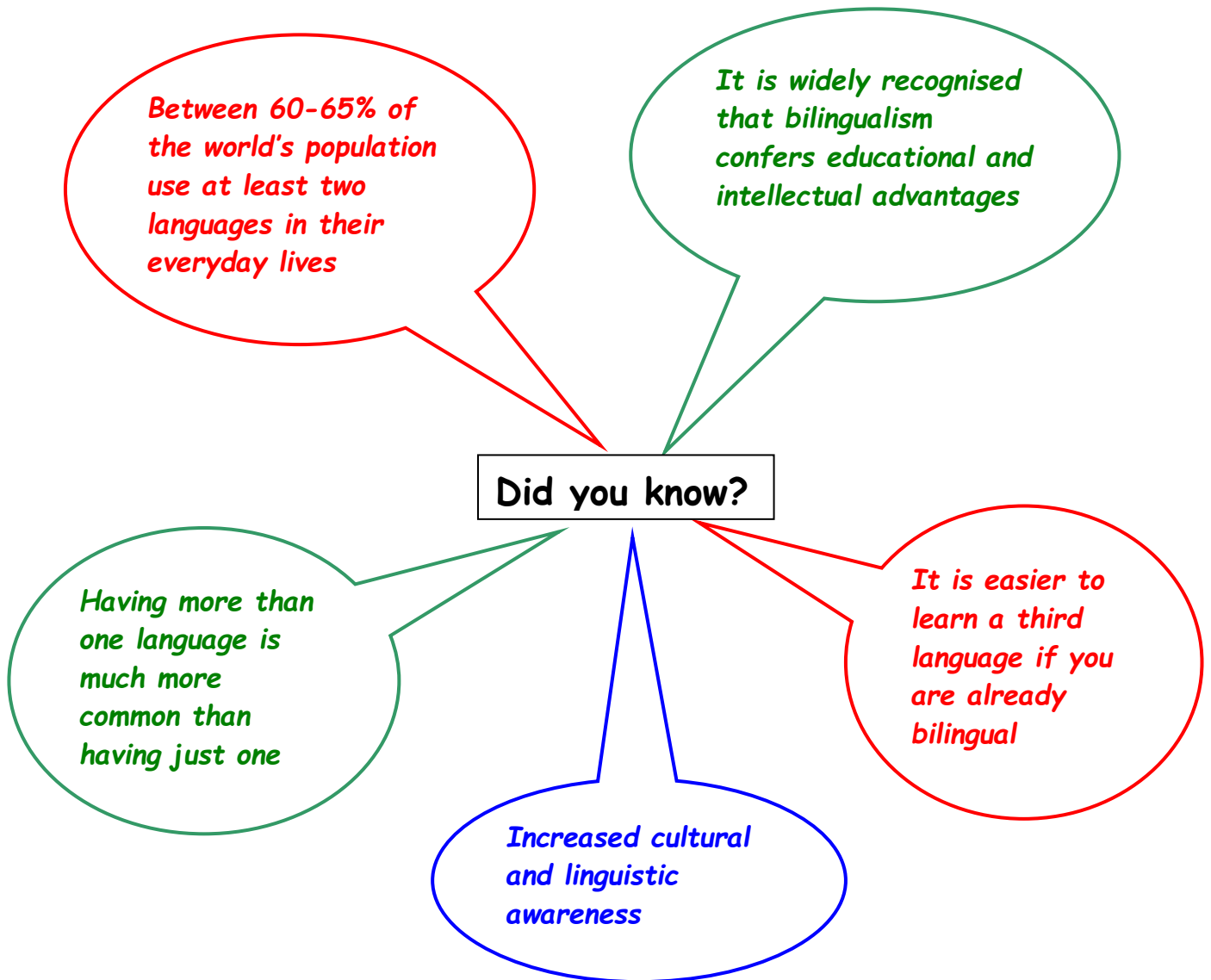


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Benefits of bilingualism

Our main aim at Riverside is for children to be fluent and equally confident in both Gaelic and English by the time they leave primary school.

In doing so, they will also fulfil the aims and goals of Curriculum for Excellence whilst accruing all the benefits of bilingualism.



Admission

Gaelic Medium Education at Riverside Primary caters for children from a variety of backgrounds - ranging from those who have encountered Gaelic in the home, through extended families or been exposed to it in the wider community. To others the school may provide the main context in which Gaelic is encountered. We fully support all children and respond positively in order to meet their individual needs.

Organisation

At Riverside we follow A Curriculum for Excellence. This provides a broad and balanced curriculum, for all children throughout the whole school. There will be opportunities for your child to mix with other classes. These include playtimes, lunchtimes, house meetings, assemblies and other occasions throughout the school year. Your child may be taught in a composite class due to the structure of our classes.

Immersion Phase/Bogadh

At Riverside, the main emphasis in the first four years will be on gaining oral competence in Gaelic. This is called the Total Immersion Phase. By the end of this phase pupils will be able to communicate with confidence in Gaelic with their peers and staff.

We aim to:

- * provide a total immersion experience by modelling high-quality Gaelic language in a stimulative way
- * provide a caring and nurturing environment in which to encourage all pupils to speak Gaelic as soon as possible
- * praise and encourage the development of children's social language and build confidence in its usage as their vocabulary extends
- * ensure all children hear Gaelic in a range of contexts and have opportunities to hear Gaelic outwith the classroom
- * develop an awareness of the richness and diversity of Gaelic culture

To enable the children to achieve the above aims we implement a variety of teaching methods. These include many active learning opportunities, including songs, structured play, language games, drama, storytelling, art activities, visual aids, modelling of words and phrases and many more. A great emphasis is made on praising all attempts made by the children.

Support with Homework

Instructions for Gaelic homework will be written in English, and in some cases, some Gaelic words used as part of the homework may be written phonetically to help with pronunciation. There are also many online websites supporting Gaelic at home. Reading books used in the Total Immersion Phase can be accessed online and listened to at home. All necessary information will be shared with homework.

Primary 5-7 / Clas 5-7

Having now completed the total immersion phase, children are confident in oral Gaelic. English is now introduced as a second language in Reading and Writing. Children will continue Reading and Writing in Gaelic but are introduced to English language teaching during their Language lessons in P5. Our experience is that skills that are taught in Gaelic language transfer readily into English.

The amount of time spent on English language increases gradually over the years. By the end of Primary 7 most children will be equally proficient in both English and Gaelic.

It should be noted that all other subjects in the curriculum are taught through the medium of Gaelic.

Frequently Asked Questions

Alongside this P1 information booklet, you will also receive a 'Fios is Freagairt' (Information and Answer) pack. This is also available online - <http://www.parant.org.uk/pdfs/fisf.pdf>.

This answers many questions that parents who chose Gaelic Medium Education for their children have previously asked.



Also included are some helpful websites, such as www.Gaelic4Parents.com which provides online Gaelic language and homework support for parents. If you have any further questions, please get in touch with us at the school.

We look forward to teaching your child and working in partnership with you.