Links:

Japan UK Live

http://www.japanuklive.org/

Kidsweb Japan

http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/

Activities:

* Monitored forum to post messages on Japan UK Live
* Dedicated class project pages
* Easy, translated email link between teachers
* Soft toy exchange
* Exchange of short films about our schools
* Exchange of cards and artwork to celebrate festivals
* Our Headteachers met in Japan, October 2014

Madley Primary School



Our school link with Amaji Elementary School, Japan

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Helen Morris, MFL Coordinator

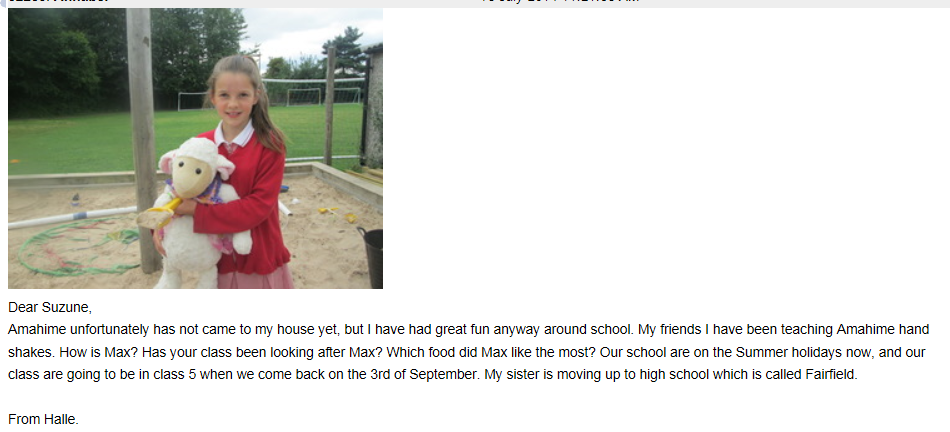
hmorris@madley.hereford.sch.uk



We have linked up with Amaji Elementary School through Japan UK Live. Once registered, our children can post messages to their Japanese penpals, which are translated into Japanese. The children write about their school and home life, and add pictures. The teachers can communicate easily and plan together through a dedicated email channel and these messages are also translated by Japan UK Live staff. We started out posting on the primary talkboard, but now we have dedicated project pages for our classes’ exchange activities.

We have made cards for each other (New Year’s cards from Japan, Easter cards from England) and sent these through the post with small seasonal gifts. We have ‘exchange students’ in each class, Amahime the girl sheep is spending time with Class 4 at Madley, and Max the Madley Bear is enjoying his stay in Japan. The children take the exchange student home with a camera and post a short report and photograph on the website. Our students sometimes also fill in a scrapbook diary.

The children have exchanged information about schools, food, sport, holidays and festivals, favourite music and hobbies and much more. We have recently received a short film about their school from Amaji and are in the process of making one to send back to them.





To support their learning about Japan, the children in Class 4 at Madley have also been learning Japanese (as part of their world explorers theme in 2013-14 and now as the MFL part of the curriculum), benefitted from an 8-week introduction to martial arts as part of our PE curriculum, been able to attend Japanese club after school where they have learned origami, calligraphy, played games in Japanese and made sushi.

For our Japanese language learning, we have used Ready Steady Nihongo and the new Primary scheme of work. The children have also used Kidsweb Japan for research.

In addition to our link via Japan UK Live, we have a letter-writing link with a small after-school English club in Oita, Japan. The children exchange letters and photos about three times a year.

