The pictures on the next slides show the Grenouilleau family (my French family) in school over the last century.

Through talking to my grandparents and looking at the photos I have found out about the similarities and differences of school in France over the years.

I found out that my grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents went to separate boys and girls schools because boys and girls could not go to the same schools. This is different to school today because boys and girls can go to the same schools or choose to go to all girls and all boys schools.

I also found out that children did not smile on the school pictures because they were told to stay serious. This is different to school pictures today as we are told to smile. Additionally, the pictures are in black and white until my mother’s school pictures. From talking to my family, I found out that this was because coloured pictures were very expensive and very rare when my grand-parents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents were children. However, I think that school class pictures are also similar because everyone stands in rows from smallest at the front to tallest at the back.

From talking to my grandparents, I found out that there could be very big classrooms with sometimes 40 children. This depended on the number of children in the village. These children were of different ages and learning different things at the same time. Children stopped school at 14 to go to work with their parents. This is different to today. We now have classes of up to 30 children of similar ages and most children stay in school until 18.

I hope you enjoy looking at the pictures. From talking to my grandmother, we think the first picture (of my great-great-grandmother) was taken in 1900!

Miss Reynolds
Miss Reynolds’ great great grandmother
Miss Reynolds’ great grandmother
Miss Reynolds’ great grandmother

1931-1932
Miss Reynolds’ grandmother

1945 - 1946
Miss Reynolds’ grandfather
Miss Reynolds’ grandfather

1947-1948
Miss Reynolds’ grandfather

1952
Miss Reynolds’ mother