

PEPE & TETE

Spanish Study Buddies



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Pepe and Tete are a leading Spanish tutoring provider in Surrey. The journey to create Pepe and Tete started in 2015 at Burhill Primary School Surrey where our founder, Sandra Aviles Martinez, in her role as a teaching assistant casually taught Spanish to children. She ventured out as a sole proprietor the following year and eventually registered Pepe and Tete as a private limited company in 2019.

Today, Sandra is supported by a team of tutors who are passionate about creating the best language learning experience for their students. At Pepe & Tete we believe that learning a language should be a fun and affordable experience while enabling people to make friends and share new cultures.

The story so far

Over the last 8 years, we have had the honour of tutoring over 500 students across all ages. Below are some of our achievements;

- Over 10,000 hours of Spanish lessons
- 16 tutors have worked with us
- Over 100 adults , 200 children, 200 Students taught
- 3 Surrey Sports clubs sponsored

Ambitions for the future

Our focus is to make learning fun, that is why we are investing in our flagship Learning programmes **Pepito** (for children) and **Spanish Año** (for adults). While we do this, our founder is keen to widen the Spanish learning experience through subsidies for students that are not able to afford private tuition.

That is why we have created, **Spanish Study Buddies**.

What is Spanish Study Buddies (SSB)?

Spanish Study Buddies (SSB) is an initiative by Pepe and Tete that encourages young children to take up learning Spanish. The initiative is aimed at increasing bilingualism among young children by reducing the barriers to learning such as the cost of private tuition. The model is based on students paying under 50% of the tuition cost with the rest coming from donations.

Reflections from the current SSB pilot

Since 2020, Pepe and Tete has run a pilot of 20 students (16 from the first cohort) on the programme. Below are some of the reflections from the pilot.

- The highest level of interest and eventual enrolment on the programme was from students at primary level.
- The cost of private tuition and difficult exams are sighted as the two key barriers to children learning Spanish beyond primary level.
- The online format of the lessons makes it easier to set up learning groups however, more engaging materials are needed.
- Lessons for groups of two are preferred as getting three students aligned is harder unless they come from the same family / close families.

Following a successful pilot, we intend to grow the interest in the programme by collaborating with primary state schools to build awareness, create more engaging materials such as animations and build networks with schools in Spain for UK children to interact with native speakers.

Our immediate goal is to more than double the number of students enrolled on SSB for the school year commencing September 2023.

Eligibility for the Spanish Study Buddies programme

Groups that are enrolled on the programme will have a weekly online lesson for a maximum of 40 weeks per year. Interested parents need to buddy up (this can be siblings from the same family). To be eligible for the programme, students need to;

- **Attend a state school or are currently home schooled.**
- **Should not be enrolled to more than 3 paid for after school clubs/ activities.**
- **Commit to paying the fees required for the 40 weeks (£400 / yr.) in order to qualify for additional funding.**

If you are interested in supporting Spanish Study Buddies, please see overleaf on how to get in touch.

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Sandra Aviles-Martinez

My name is Sandra. I am a trained teacher who has always been passionate about education, languages, travelling and discovering new cultures. My journey started in Spain where I worked as a tennis coach for 9 years. This period exposed me to an entirely different way of learning that focused on the application beyond the tennis lessons.

Starting Pepe and Tete in England provided me with the underestimated gift of meeting the world and its different cultures in one country. That's why Pepe and Tete is more than a language learning endeavor. It's also a fun experience that creates friendships across cultures.

We would like to make learning Spanish fun for you, so if your organisation is interested in any of our Spanish programmes, please get in touch.

Phone: +44 (0) 7484 324326

Email : team@pepeandtete.com

Website: www.pepeandtete.com

Pepe and Tete is the trading name of Pepe and Tete Limited.

Company Reg: 11897251. England and Wales.

Reg Address: 1 Shepperton Marina, Felix Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8NS