

As the Honorary Consul of France in Wales, I am delighted to reflect on the wonderful ties between our nations and to support the ongoing efforts to strengthen cultural, social, and economic connections between Wales and France. It is a privilege to be able to contribute to initiatives that build on our long-standing friendship and shared values.

And so, as we head towards UNESCO's International Mother Language Day on 21 February, I am delighted to have the opportunity to support the delivery of a special Franco-Welsh edition of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's beloved *Le Petit Prince* to every school in Wales. This bilingual edition marks a significant milestone. For the first time, the French text appears alongside *Y Tywysog Bach*, a Welsh translation by Llinos Dafis.

The story of *The Little Prince* speaks to themes of curiosity, exploration, and the discovery of new worlds—ideas that resonate deeply with the Welsh Government's vision for the Curriculum for Wales and indeed for an international relations agenda with future generations at its heart. The Welsh education system encourages students to engage with literature from across the globe, promoting reflection on their own identities and an understanding of other cultures. We hope this special edition will inspire Welsh pupils to consider the connections between Wales and France and to reflect on the beauty of cultural exchange.

2025 is the 25th anniversary of UNESCO recognising International Mother Language Day as part of work to promote cultural and linguistic diversity to support sustainable societies. Alongside that global focus on linguistic diversity, this book also speaks of a very special relationship between Wales and France. Although the United Kingdom has left the European Union, Wales remains an integral part of Europe, committed to fostering meaningful relationships with France and other European nations.

Alongside me, Archippus Sturrock, a Welsh poet published under the pen name RJ Arkhipov and a member of the Franco-British Council, led the organisation of this project with dedication and vision, ensuring its success. His passion for linguistic and cultural exchange was the impetus behind this idea, bringing together key partners to turn it into a reality.

This literary project has been a collaboration between myself, Archippus Sturrock, and our generous sponsors: Capital Law, Airbus, and Bouygues, whose ongoing commitment to the Franco-Welsh relationship has made this possible. It has been made possible through the support of the Welsh Government alongside the French Embassy in the UK and the British Embassy in France.

My partners in this project and I are excited about the future of Franco-Welsh collaboration and look forward to continued cultural exchange. As we reflect on this moment, I leave you with the words of *The Little Prince* that so beautifully capture the spirit of our shared mission:

*“The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen
or touched, they are felt with the heart.”*

Yours faithfully



Celine Jones
Honorary Consul of France in Wales