**Cave Languages**

**Primary Language Update – June 2016**

**Primary Languages and Ofsted**

A few weeks ago, Sir Michael Wilshaw posted the following about the teaching of languages in primary school on the Gov.uk website:

In his latest commentary, Sir Michael Wilshaw says that the emphasis in recent years on English and mathematics at key stage 2, while absolutely essential, should not be at the expense of other important subjects. He believes that compulsory subjects like science and modern languages have become the ‘poor relations’ of the primary school curriculum. However, these subjects, when taught well, can boost literacy and numeracy skills and raise standards in English and mathematics. Evidence from recent Ofsted inspections and feedback from teachers, parents and pupils have highlighted a number of common concerns surrounding the provision of both science and foreign languages at key stage 2. Sir Michael says that a sharper focus needs to be placed on these subjects to make sure that children leaving primary school are better prepared to meet the more rigorous academic challenges they will face at secondary school.

You can read more about this here <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hmcis-monthly-commentary-may-2016> He goes on to say:

However, the evidence from this recent investigation has convinced me that we need to put as sharp a focus on the other subjects as we do on English and mathematics. As a result, I have reminded inspectors that they should always be looking closely at the subjects of the wider primary curriculum, including science and foreign languages, as set out in the inspection handbook.

It will be interesting to see if in forthcoming inspections, more attention is given, and subsequently reported on,  how languages are being delivered in primary schools.

**Cave Languages Support**

Many schools now know who will be teaching which class in the new term. Having audited the skills and experience of your colleagues as to whether they are ready to deliver high quality foreign language lessons and have discovered that they will be in need of support, don’t forget about the support which *Cave Languages* can offer.

I can support teachers in the classroom through the ‘**lesson modelling package’**. With just one hour a week, I can support two teachers for 30 minutes on a weekly basis; four teachers for 30 minutes on a fortnightly basis; 6 teachers for 30 minutes once every 3 weeks. This has proved to be a very effective method of giving confidence to teachers, new to teaching languages, the confidence to deliver lessons both now and in forthcoming years.

The *Cave Languages* French **scheme of work and lesson plans**, sufficient to teach one lesson every week for 4 years, are available to download from my website with proof of purchase of the related resources <http://www.cavelanguages.co.uk/french-resources>

The French language **up-skilling courses** as well as the termly **methodology twilight courses** for each year group are an excellent complement to the scheme of work. All the courses are at very competitive prices. Don’t forget that the ‘training package’ gives unlimited access to all courses for the whole school. For more information, go here <http://www.cavelanguages.co.uk/training-courses> or contact me for advice.

**Thames Valley Network and Support Group**

The next meeting of the Thames Valley Network and Support group for teachers of languages in primary school is next week on **Thursday 30th June**. It is absolutely **free** and open to anyone interested in teaching languages. The next meeting will have something for everyone: in addition to sharing successes, concerns and queries about teaching in KS2; Julie Clays will be sharing her experience and ideas about teaching Spanish and French in Key Stage 1; later in the meeting we will be joined by secondary colleagues when we will review the transition information document which we trialled last year. If you would like to attend but have not let me know yet, please can you do so and then we will know how many to accommodate. Keep Hatch Primary School 4.15-5.45pm (refreshments from 4.00pm) This is a great opportunity to find out how local schools are delivering language lessons. See you there!

**Euro 2016 Resources**

If your school is gripped with Euro 2016 fever and you would like to make links to this in your language lessons, there are some free resources for French, Spanish and German here <http://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk/resources-euro2016.html>

**Funding for German Network Groups**

The Goethe-Institut in London has just announced that there will be funding of £3,000 to help a network promote the teaching of German in primary and secondary schools. The funding will be given to a network of a minimum of 3 schools either primary, secondary or a mixture of both. If you are interested in this but don’t know which schools in the area teach German I might be able to help you, so contact me. For more information, go here <https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/spr/eng/scg.html>

As always, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Sue

Primary MFL Specialist Teacher and Consultant

Cave Languages

[www.cavelanguages.co.uk](http://www.cavelanguages.co.uk/)

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“supporting schools to deliver languages”