**Cave Languages**

**Primary Language Update – November/December 2015**

**Primary Language Network and Support Meeting**

The meeting held this month was as interesting as always. If you couldn’t make the meeting and would like to know what was discussed, you can find the notes here on my website <http://www.cavelanguages.co.uk/thames-valley-primary-hub> Many people shared practical ideas and we were also inspired by our special guest who was winner of the Primary Language Teacher of the Year award. Here are some of the ideas which you might like to follow-up.

**Language Detective cards** – Lindsay Smith from Keep Hatch Primary shared her idea of awarding ‘language detective cards’ to a child who makes a language link which has not been specifically taught. You can find the templates for this at the end of the notes document. This is something I am going to use.

**Japan Resources** – we found out that the Japan Foundation awards quite large grants to schools who would like to implement the teaching of Japanese. If you are interested in offering an after school club, this might be something worth pursuing. This funding could be used to employ a teacher of Japanese, for example. There is a free scheme of work online too. You can find the links to this information on my Sharing Good Practice page <http://www.cavelanguages.co.uk/sharing-good-practice>

**Resources for teaching Latin –** if anyone is interested in offering Latin as an after school club, there is ahighly recommended course called Minimus, specifically designed for primary schools. There is a grant available to purchase resources. The link is on the Sharing Good Practice page.

The next meeting will be in the Spring Term on Thursday 3rd March 2016. All are welcome and it is free to attend.

**Christmas Resources**

If you access the Cave Languages resources, you will find that I have uploaded some ideas for lessons with the theme of Christmas for the different year groups.

On my Sharing Good Practice page, if you go to the section ’Interesting links to resources online’ and find the entries for Christmas 2014, you will find links to a variety of resources. I will add others as I find them.

**Cave Languages Resources and Planning**

If you would like to access the extensive Smart notebook files and planning to support the delivery of the Catherine Cheater SOW, all you have to do is send me a photo of the referenced resources. See my website for more details.

**Year 6 Resources**

I have recently updated and uploaded the next two projects for Year 6 – ‘writing a description of a monster’ and the ‘moi et toi mini-book’. The final two projects will be uploaded in the next couple of months.

**Training Sessions**

In January, I will be offering methodology training sessions for teaching the scheme of work to Years 3, 4 and 5. The Year 6 session is in March. In these sessions, you will have the opportunity tp practise the language to be taught in the Spring Term; participate in the classroom activities described in the SOW and find out how to deliver them as well as consider how the content relates to the KS2 Programme of Study to understand the progression involved. If you have colleagues in your school who would benefit from attendance on any of these courses, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Year 3 – 12th January

Year 4 – 13th January

Year 5 – 14th January

**Association for Language Learning (ALL)**

**Language Conference**

This is a major subject association for all those involved in teaching language at any level. Each year they organise a language conference which offers inspirational CPD. In 2016 it will be in Rugby on the 11th and 12th March. Here is the link <http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events/language_world/language_world_2016>

**Roadshow Power Points**

Once a term, ALL produces power points of information about what is happening in the world of primary language teaching. They are always very interesting. In the Autumn Term 2015 edition, the focus was on assessment and progress; using drama in the classroom; what makes a successful language learner. You can read them here. <http://www.all-languages.org.uk/community/branches_and_networks/about_all_local_and_regional_groups/about_primary_hubs> Scroll down to the bottom right of this page. Well worth a look.

**French Take-Home Activity Bags**

Recently on a language forum I saw the idea of creating a take-home French activity bag which one child takes home each week. This term I have been using them with Year 3 and 4 classes and they are proving to be very popular. Further information about the content of the bags can be found <http://www.cavelanguages.co.uk/sharing-good-practice>

**Research on Word Class Actions**

If you are a user of the Cave Languages resources you will know that I have included, in the planning, ideas for actions to help children recall and grasp the concept of different word classes such as nouns, adjectives etc. These actions were adapted from ones described in the Catherine Cheater Scheme of Work. I have always found them to be helpful and effective for many children. In 2014/15, I carried out an action research project to make a comparison between a class which was exposed to them in both English and French lessons and a class in which they were only used in French lessons. If you are interested in finding out more about the project, the report and analysis are on the Sharing Good Practice page of my website.

I hope that the end of term goes well for you and you have a lovely Christmas break.

As always, if you have any queries, please contact me.

Joyeux Noël!

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”