

**ALL Thames Valley Primary Languages Hub Meeting**  
**Via Zoom**  
**16/2/22**

17 schools represented.

Sue Cave thanked Karen Blackham for agreeing to take the notes.

**Introduction**

SC welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were several teachers joining the meeting for the first time. There were teachers from schools in Wokingham, Bracknell, Windsor and Maidenhead, Buckinghamshire, West Berks, Slough, Oxfordshire. Apologies were given that this date clashed with the half term break in a couple of the local authorities.

**Agenda**

1. Sharing ideas, successes, concerns
2. News Updates
3. Puppets and Storytelling

**• Sharing Ideas, Successes and Concerns**

The attendees were put into break-out rooms and then shared their discussions:

- One school has switched to using Language Angels scheme of work because it has early units of work for use in Reception and KS1.
- As visitors could not be invited into school for the European Day of Languages parents were invited to make recordings of stories in different languages and these were shared on the learning platform
- One school has introduced French ambassadors in her school as well as instigating the use of a learning log to write down what they have been learning in a lesson. The school has also started using 'take home bags'.
- How to assess progress continues to be problematic for many, particularly when a peripatetic teacher is responsible for this and has many classes to assess. The Cave Languages progressive statements for emerging, expected and exceeding have been a help for some schools.
- One school provides feedback once a year via reports to parents and uses target tracker once a term.
- One school has initiated a French day during which the children looked at artists. It is hoped that the idea of a French Day will be expanded in the future. The school also created an escape room challenge for half term on things they had learned.
- Missed learning due to Covid was discussed. One school carried on with the same topics after lockdown but backtracked a bit to fill in the gaps. Most people agreed that they were behind where they would normally be but had adopted the same strategy of carrying on from wherever the lessons had stopped.

**• News and Updates**

**ALL Membership**

It costs £50 for a primary school to obtain membership of ALL for a year or £45 for an individual if you are part-time. Everyone is encouraged to join.

**PHOrum**

The next meeting of the ALL PHOrum meeting will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 4.15-5.30pm. There will be two presentations: *Using a single story for the whole year* and *One rainbow resource – a whole spectrum of ideas*. This meeting is for ALL members. To book a place [www.tinyurl.com/phorum0322](http://www.tinyurl.com/phorum0322)

## **Languages World Conference**

The theme this year is 'language Learning for Social Justice'. The conference will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March in Sheffield. Once again there is a wide selection of interesting presentations from which to choose. [LW2022 \(delegate-reg.co.uk\)](http://LW2022.delegate-reg.co.uk)

## **A Deep Dive into Primary Languages**

Ellie Chettle-Cully has written a very interesting and informative account of her experience of a 'deep-dive' in languages at her school in Leicester. You can read about it in her blog 'My Primary Languages Classroom'.

[A "Deep Dive" into primary languages – My Primary Languages Classroom](#)

## **Singing Workshops for Years 5 and 6**

The Goethe-Institut London is offering workshops for primary schools designed to introduce your pupils in Years 5 and 6 to the wonderful world of German music through the medium of song. The workshops take place in your school and you don't have to be delivering German lessons. They are free and available until the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

[Workshop: Yeah Yeah Yeah! - Goethe-Institut Vereinigtes Königreich](#)

## **Latin Resources**

Every day in February the website below will have a fun Latin word of the day, each accompanied by an explanation of what it means and an artefact from Vindolanda or the Roman Army Museum. You can see the **28 Days of Latin Blog here** with words for the whole month so far.

[28 Days of Latin with Vindolanda and Minimus](#)

## **British Council – Year of the Tiger Education Pack**

On the 1st February the Chinese Year of the Tiger begins. You can find resources with information and activities to help teachers and pupils find out more about this festival and explore Chinese culture. You can learn about the South China Tiger, make a kite and take part in a Chinese language lesson. The resources are available from the British Council website [Year of the Tiger Education Pack | British Council](#)

## **Oxford German Olympiad**

If you are looking for a competition for children in Years 5 and 6 then have a look at the Oxford German Olympiad. It is an annual competition organised by the Oxford German Network. It is free to enter and there are prizes to be won.

[Oxford German Network | Oxford German Olympiad 2022](#)

## **Match My School**

Without the support of Erasmus, schools are finding that it is difficult to make contact with schools in other countries to set up links. A new service has just started up called Match my school [Match My School](#)

The website says *Match My School gives you direct access to teachers like you who are looking for classes to twin with! A safe, easy and free way for teachers to connect and cooperate with each other across borders.* Currently, it is free.

## **Express Yourself NE**

The North East Festival of Languages will be taking place in March and there are several free pre-recorded activities in which your school can take part: language and culture workshops; puppet show in French; Latin tales and Roman lives; introductory session in French, Spanish, German, Italian and Mandarin; Japanese taster session for 5-11 year olds. Registration is needed for all of these to receive the link to the recordings

[What's On – Express Yourself \(expressyourselfne.com\)](#)

## **Patchwork Diagram of KS2 Programme of Study Targets**

You can find a pictorial representation of the KS2 Programme of Study targets on the Sharing Good Practice page of the Cave Languages website in the Teaching and Learning section. [Sharing good practice - Cave Languages: advice, training courses and support for the delivery of languages in primary schools](#)

## **ALL West of England Virtual Conference**

There will be a key note speech by Clare Seccombe and 5 further pre-recorded presentations – German activities, OFSTED, 3 teaching strategies for comprehensible input, culture in the French languages classroom and teaching phonics.

[Back to ALL the basics - ALL West of England Virtual Conference - 2022 Tickets, Sat 5 Mar 2022 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

### **• Puppets and Storytelling**

Our guest speaker Nathalie Paris was warmly welcomed and thanked for giving her time to speak to us about using puppets and storytelling. This is how she describes herself:

Nathalie Paris (yes, it is her real name!) was a secondary languages teacher for 19 years with responsibility for outreach primary languages teaching and transition KS2-KS3; she is currently a part-time primary French teacher and the owner of Nattalingo: she uses her picture books, her hand puppets and puppet theatres to make French learning accessible and entertaining. She is also known as the Geordie French storyteller and supports the teaching of languages in many ways.

Below is a résumé of what she spoke about, however, you can find out more by going to her website to this specially created password area for the Thames Valley Hub <https://nattalingo.co.uk/all-thames-valley-primary-hub-16-02-2022> the password is ALL.

Nathalie invited us to put into the chat why using stories in the primary languages classroom is a good idea, here are the suggestions which were made: familiarity, create hooks for learning, link to culture, motivating when they understand the meaning, engages reluctant learners, introduces or reinforces vocabulary, opportunity for repetition, fun, can get them speaking, encourages them to join in

Then Nathalie spoke about the following:

- Amazing things you can do with just a handful of books for children
- Authentic books and how they can help you meet the targets of the KS2 programmes of study
- Essentials picture books for the French classroom
- List of books with blogs
- Puppets in the language classroom

You can find out about the above by following the link to her website.

Nathalie read three books to us – ‘Poux’ in which demonstrated how this could be used to practise and reinforce a particular sound in this case ‘ou’ in French. ‘Tu lis quoi’ which describes all the different types of reading media e.g. newspapers, manga, cartoons. She suggested that this could be a good start pointing for an idea for World Book Day and explore these media in the foreign language which you are teaching. The final one ‘Petite taupe – ouvre-moi ta porte’ showed us how by allocating actions to certain repeated phrases all the children can join in with the storytelling. This book is also a good example of one which can be adapted by the children to create their own version in a mini-book.

Finally, everyone is invited to name their favourite book for use in the primary languages classroom, here are the suggestions: Aboie Georges; Berthe books; Petit poisson blanc; Pop mange de toutes les couleurs; Ours brun

**Next Meeting: Thames Valley Primary Languages Hub**

In keeping with the agreement that the day for the meeting would alternate between Wednesdays and Thursdays, the next meeting will be on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 4.15-5.45pm via Zoom  
The theme of the meeting is 'Raising the profile of languages'.

Sue Cave  
18/2/22