

ALL Thames Valley Primary Languages Hub Meeting
Via Zoom
19/5/22

14 schools represented.

Sue Cave thanked Alice Bastable 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, Bucks.

Agenda

1. Sharing ideas, successes, concerns
2. News Updates
3. Raising the profile of languages

• Sharing Ideas, Successes and Concerns

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

- One group discussed the selection of schemes of work on offer. There are many – some are subscription ones e.g. Primary Languages Network/Language Angels/Kapow, some are free – Lightbulb Languages/Primary French Project/Rachel Hawkes and Cave Languages which is free but requires purchase of storybooks and phonics resource book embedded in scheme. You can make a comparison of ones available on this site [Primary French Schemes of Work Compared | Scheme Support](#) [Spanish Schemes of Work Compared | Scheme Support](#) [Primary German Schemes of Work Compared | Scheme Support](#)
- The Facebook page ‘Languages in Primary Schools’ was recommended as a good source of support and ideas
- One school had reinstated a German breakfast event recently which was well received after a long break due to Covid. Information about how to go about holding a French breakfast here [Sharing good practice - Cave Languages: advice, training courses and support for the delivery of languages in primary schools](#)
- A school in Oxfordshire had had a very encouraging meeting with a local feeder secondary school to discuss transition and prior learning of languages in the primary school. For anyone looking for a transition document to use to send information to a secondary school, there is one here [Sharing good practice - Cave Languages: advice, training courses and support for the delivery of languages in primary schools](#)
- The problem of not enough time on the curriculum to teach languages was discussed as well as lack of progression for some children who are removed for interventions/reading and other school events meaning that a lesson is missed. Everyone stated how long on the timetable they had – it ranged from 30 minutes to an hour but no-one felt that they had enough time

• 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 Thursday 9th June 4.15-5.30pm. There will be two presentations: *Singing and Dancing in the Primary Classroom* and *Creative Cross-Curricular Activities for KS2 progression*. This meeting is for ALL members. To book a place www.tinyurl.com/phorum0622

PHOrum Proposals

The PHOrum programme is being planned for 2022-23, if you would like to share good classroom practice, please put forward your ideas here www.tinyurl.com/phoproposal It doesn't matter if you have no experience of presenting before. There are two options – a presentation of 15 minutes or 25 minutes

BBC Super Movers Videos

There are some new BBC Super Movers videos in French and Spanish. They are short song and dance routines to practise basic language. [Modern Foreign Language Collection - BBC Teach](#)

Support for Ukrainian refugees

Here are three sources of support for Ukrainian refugees in your school – phrases with accompanying video on You Tube [Ukrainian phrases for school \(wordpress.com\)](#) Language classroom mat with key phrases in English/Ukrainian/French as well as a Spanish version – under Miscellaneous [French Display Resources \(lightbulblanguages.co.uk\)](#) and Languagenut has a Ukrainian section with free access [Free Ukrainian Refugee Language Resources - Languagenut United Kingdom](#)

SWIFT conference

The South West Institute for Teaching is organizing a Primary Languages CPD afternoon Online on the 23rd May. More information here [SWIFT - CPD Online \(sw-iftcpd.org.uk\)](#)

French Summer School

The Institut français is offering a summer school in France for primary teachers. The accommodation and training fees are covered by the Institut, attendees just need to organize their own travel. More information here [2022 French summer school for primary school teachers \(office.com\)](#)

Spanish CPD Workshops

The Spanish Embassy Education Office in London is organizing a day of workshops for primary on Saturday 25th June. More information here [Talleres de español 2022 \(Londres\) - Reino Unido | Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional \(educacionyfp.gob.es\)](#)

Primary Languages Survey

The University of Reading is conducting a survey on 'Perceptions of Primary Languages in England' please respond and complete the survey here, if you can [Perceptions of Primary Languages \(Teacher\) \(onlinesurveys.ac.uk\)](#)

French Grammar Upskilling for Primary Teachers

Sue Cave of Cave Languages has recorded two CPD videos for primary teachers to brush-up 'rusty' French grammar knowledge. There is one for teaching in lower KS2 and one for upper KS2. www.tinyurl.com/grammartraining

ALL Primary Languages Conference Online 2022

A date for your diary is the ALL Primary Languages Conference Online which will take place on Saturday 5th November 2022. The theme is 'The Primary Voice'. More information to follow.

- **Raising the profile of languages**

The attendees went into break-out rooms to discuss how they raise the profile of languages in their school. Here are their ideas:

Assemblies

Many said that they would like to have time in an assembly to demonstrate what the children have been learning in their lessons but it is often difficult as there is not much opportunity for this. One school performed a French version of the 'Enormous Turnip' and sang a Spanish song.

Language Ambassadors

A few schools have appointed children to be special 'language ambassadors' – their role is to organize the foreign language resources; sometimes demonstrate some of the language in class; lead playground games in the foreign language; remind the class teacher to practise the new language at register time. In one school, the children are called 'Language Detectives' and choose the words for Spelling Bee competition in school and also go into the younger classes to help out in language lessons

Displays

Some schools had a language display in the corridor as well as in the classroom. One had displays about cultural aspects about France and Francophone countries – questions were asked about the display to each class and points were earned. The class with the most points at the end of the year was declared the winner.

There is door display 'Languages spoken by the class' which can be downloaded here [Sharing good practice - Cave Languages: advice, training courses and support for the delivery of languages in primary schools](#)

Special Days

One school is holding a post SATS languages week with activities such as the Super Movers videos; using the phrase of the week – with points awarded for each class and teacher. The week culminates in a French café.

Another school holds a French day for the whole school which involves cross-curricular activities.

There are some great ideas for organizing a French Day on this blog [LE BLOG DE MADAME BIRTWISTLE](#)

Visits and Visitors

One school queries whether there were any foreign language theatre groups. Two were mentioned [Home | Onatti Productions L](#) and [Welcome to théâtre sans frontières - creating an international theatre of excellence that celebrates world languages and cultures | TSF](#)

Competitions

One school organized a poster competition to raise the profile of languages. This was for several schools in a federation and was judged by the CEO.

The company U Talk arrange an annual competition in which children compete in an online game to learn a new language. [uTalk Language Games](#)

Clubs

It was suggested that offering a club in a language which is different to the one being learnt in the classroom, gives children exposure to a wider range of languages. Maybe there is a teacher in the school who has knowledge of another language who could lead the club.

School Website

Some schools share what is happening in their classroom on the school learning platform. One school has an entry in the weekly school newsletter with information and photos.

Links with school abroad

One school has recently established a link with a school via the Facebook group ‘Teachers looking for penpals for their students French/English’ [Teachers looking for Pen Pals for their Students: English/French | Facebook](#)
One school registered on the new website ‘Match my School’ [Match My School](#) but has not yet found a school
Another possibility is to get in contact with your local Town Twining committee to see if they can help.

Rewards

One school uses the Language Detective cards to reward observations about linguistic links. The French ones can be found here [Sharing good practice - Cave Languages: advice, training courses and support for the delivery of languages in primary schools](#)

European Day of Languages

This will take place on the 26 September and is a good way to raise awareness of language learning in general.
Various resources can be downloaded here [European Day of Languages > Participate > Downloads \(ecml.at\)](#)

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 Wednesday 12th October 2022 4.15-5.45pm via Zoom
The theme of the meeting is ‘Pair work in language lessons.’

Sue Cave
21/5/22