

**ALL Thames Valley Primary Languages Hub Meeting**  
**Via Zoom**  
**10/5/23**

13 schools represented.

### **Introduction**

SC welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were teachers from schools in Wokingham, Bracknell, Windsor and Maidenhead, Reading, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Slough and West Berkshire

### **Agenda**

1. Sharing ideas, successes, concerns
2. News Updates
3. Retrieval and recall activities

- **Sharing Ideas, Successes and Concerns**

The attendees shared the following:

- One school planning a French celebration for the 14<sup>th</sup> July in which cultural activities will be linked with language learnt in the lessons e.g. a game of boules/colours, Art/shapes, Café/Food (local supermarkets to support this) The class teachers will deliver the activities as a carousel and the subject leader will provide the activities. This idea was inspired by an idea from the presentation by Ellie Chettle Cully in the last session.
- One school found themselves with an interactive whiteboard today and made up an activity which worked well. The children worked in groups to earn points and names were chosen randomly to answer questions about prior learning, if they wanted to accept the challenge. Correct answers earned points for their team. The prior learning was revised first. There was great participation.
- One school had a query about the impact of using Physical French Phonics – several others reported that the result was more confident and accurate speakers. There was a discussion about whether formal introduction of phonics is best in Year 3 or later in KS2. The book '21 Fun songs for teaching French phonics' was recommended.
- One school participated in the British Council 'Celebrate Speaking' event which involved children submitting short recordings in a language which was not their own – song, poem, short performance. Several recordings from this school were chosen at a live event held recently. Congratulations! You can see examples from last year here [Celebrate Speaking | British Council](#) The 2023 entrants will be posted soon.

- **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 meeting**

The ALL PHOrum meetings are for members of the Association only and are free. The next one is on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 4pm. There will be 2 presentations: Transition KS2 to KS3 and easy and free technology ideas for primary languages. These meetings are always great CPD and take place once a term. If you are not a member it is worth considering joining even just for these. Book a place [www.tinyurl.com/phorum0623](http://www.tinyurl.com/phorum0623)

### **German Expert Mentors**

The Government is providing funding to encourage the teaching of German in schools. As part of this scheme the Goethe Institut is training experienced teachers of German to become GEMS – German Expert Mentors. You can find out more here [German Expert Mentors - Goethe-Institut United Kingdom](#)

### **Free Course**

The Future Learn platform is currently offering a course 'Plurilingual Classrooms in Action'. It is free to participate and is completed in your own time at your own pace. It is for 4 weeks for about 4 hours of study a week.

[Plurilingual Classrooms in Action - Online Course - FutureLearn](#)

### **Young Language Learner Award**

The publishers BSmall are running a competition called 'Young Language Learner Award'. Children aged 6 -11 are invited to send in a story or comic on the theme of Celebration in a language of their choice other than their first language.

[| b small publishing](#)

### **Language Angels Free Webinar**

Language Angels are offering a free webinar 'Preparing for inspections and deep dives' on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 4-5pm.

[Language Angels - Preparing For Inspections & Deep Dives In Primary Foreign Languages \(ontraport.net\)](#)

### **Spanish workshops for teachers**

The Education office of the Spanish Embassy is organising a series of workshops for both primary and secondary teachers in London on the 24<sup>th</sup> June. The cost is £50.

[Talleres de español 2023 \(Londres\) - Reino Unido | Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional \(educacionyfp.gob.es\)](#)

### **ALL Primary Languages Conference Online**

A date for your diary is Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 when the ALL Primary Languages Conference will take place. More information to follow.

### **Keep up to date**

A reminder that in between meetings you can always find out what is happening by looking on the Sharing Good Practice page of the Cave Languages website [Sharing good practice - Cave Languages: advice, training courses and support for the delivery of languages in primary schools](#) Alternatively, subscribe to the mailing list to receive an email update every 2 months.

### **• Recycling and Retrieval Activities**

It was agreed that reviewing and practising again previously encountered language is an important part of any learning and particularly important in language learning. This allows children to move learning into their long term memory to become 'sticky knowledge' which will more easily be retrieved at a later date. We discussed various ways to achieve this.

Here are some thoughts from our discussion:

- Create activities which not only review what was learnt recently but also from the previous term or year
- The length of lesson is crucial in allowing enough time for recall activities – 45 minutes + is ideal
- Consider the content of your scheme of work – is it too large? What is the key knowledge and language which you would like your children to know at the end of each year group and allow this to dictate content. Less is more!
- Phonics, Grammar, Vocabulary, Dictionary Skills are the key elements which are vehicles for progress in language learning in KS2
- Consider whether your scheme of work recycles language in different contexts with the emphasis on structures rather than individual items of vocabulary
- Do the retrieval activities really allow for independent recall of language which will strengthen the memory of it or is support provided which could make this less effective?
- Consider also reviewing and recycling language skills maybe even from KS1 to KS2 if a different language is taught in each cycle

- It is particularly useful to use retrieval activities if you have a lot of new starters as this allows them to catch up on what they have missed

Activity ideas:

- Ask a starter question on a regular basis e.g. how are you feeling? Encouraging the children to reply with reasons for their response and then as they become more confident talk about how others feel. The repetition of the same question makes it become familiar but with increased knowledge the children can respond with more complex sentences
- Use a blockbuster grid and enter language to be practised in the shapes. In 2 teams, each team takes it in turns to translate from English to foreign language or vice versa, a correct answer allows them to move one space. The winning team is the one which crosses first from one side of the grid to the other. Once the game is familiar there is no need for explanation of the rules each time and the grid can be left for a class teacher to do when the language teacher is not there or led by Language Ambassadors, for example.
- If you are a peripatetic teacher, short videos can be recreated practising the new language which the class teacher can use between lessons.
- Flippity [www.flippity.net](http://www.flippity.net) can be used for free, online, to create randomly generated sentences using the language which you input and the children can practise translating the language which sometimes is amusing depending on the meaning of the sentences.
- Using flashcards with images of previously learnt vocabulary is often a readily available resource which is flexible and can be adapted to play a variety of games
- Magic Whiteboard provides dry erase sheets which can be kept with the writing and learning from a previous lesson and displayed as a working wall to which the children can refer. Language from not only the previous week's lesson but the previous terms' can be saved if wished. [Magic Whiteboard - 65 Feet of Whiteboard on a Roll - 25 Dry Erase Sheets : Amazon.co.uk: Stationery & Office Supplies](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B078888888)
- Also have a look at Ellie Chettle Cully's blog in which she shares her top 10 lesson starter ideas [My Go-To Starter Activities – My Primary Languages Classroom](https://www.mypriprimarylanguagesclassroom.co.uk/)

Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas and thoughts.

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023** 4.15-5.45pm via Zoom.

I offered two possibilities for themes next time but they were equally liked so the theme of the next meeting is 'Using technology in primary language lessons'. We will use the other topic for the Spring Term meeting.

Sue Cave

11/5/23