**ALL Thames Valley Primary Hub Meeting**

**Keep Hatch Primary School**

**11/11/15**

17 schools represented.

Sue Cave (SC) thanked Keep Hatch Primary and Lindsay Smith (PL coordinator) for hosting the meeting and Karen Blackham for agreeing to take the notes.

**Introduction**

SC welcomed all members, in particular, the special guest Catherine Rodrigues from St Edmund Campion School who would be giving a presentation later.

**Agenda**

1. Sharing ideas, successes and concerns

2. News and updates

3. Presentation from Catherine Rodrigues on a multi-lingual approach to teaching in Key Stage 2

1. **Sharing Ideas and Concerns**

The following was discussed:

* Lindsay told us about the ‘Language Detective’ cards which she has made. If a child spots a language link which has not been specifically taught, they proudly receive a ‘Language Detective’ card. This is a template at the end of these notes.
* There was reminder about the wealth of information and ideas on the Facebook page ‘Language in Primary School’. It is a closed group, just ask to join. There are over 2,400 members.
* One school gives a French name to each child
* Another primary school has set up a penpal exchange with a secondary school
* Sue mentioned that she has created take home French activity bags which one child takes home each week. These 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>
1. **News and Updates**

**ALL Membership –** everyone is encouraged to join the Association for Language Learning. Membership forms were available. Please note the membership fee is now £50 for a primary school.

**Transition document –** at the last meeting, the format of a transition information document was agreed upon with some representatives from local secondary schools. Several people at the meeting said that they had used it to send information to their feeder schools. Most had received feedback from the secondary schools which was very positive. Sue will contact the local secondary school transition coordinators for their feedback on the process and will report back at the meeting in the Spring Term.

**Collins Dictionaries –** the publishers Collins have a special discount on dictionaries until the end of November. If you use this code DICT60, you will get 60% the price.

**Languagenut** – the company Languagenut had sent flyers and promotional pens to take away. It is a company which describes itself as a ‘professional language teaching support tool’ both online and offline. [www.languagenut.com](http://www.languagenut.com) Someone at the meeting has experience of the resources. She said that each child could have their own login and do home learning on it. She said that the response from the children was positive.

**ALL Roadshows** – the Association for Language Learning produces termly information Powerpoints about Primary Language learning. They can be found on the ALL website <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. They are worth a look. The Autumn Term 2015 edition has some interesting information about ‘Assessment and Progression’, ‘Using drama in the classroom’, ‘What makes a successful language learner’.

**Language World Conference** – the ALL Language Conference will be on the 11th-12th March in Rugby. It is great conference for CPD. More information here <http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events/language_world/language_world_2016>

**Christmas Activities** – if you are looking for ideas for Christmas resources and activities, Sue posted some in 2014 in the Sharing Good Practice area of her website <http://www.cavelanguages.co.uk/sharing-good-practice> If she finds any more, she will post them here too. Well worth a look.

**Cave Languages Training Courses –** methodology courses for primary teachers are being offered in January 2016. For more information, go here <http://www.cavelanguages.co.uk/training-courses>

1. **Guest Speaker**

Catherine Rodrigues is the winner of the ‘Primary Teacher of the Year’ award 2015. She has been teaching for 8 years in the St Edmund Campion School in Maidenhead. <http://www.all-languages.org.uk/awards/language_teacher_of_the_year_award_2015/class_of_2015>

Catherine gave a very interesting presentation about how languages are delivered in her school.

Initially, Spanish had been taught in Years 3 & 4, French in Years 5 & 6. Based on research and because her school embraced the concept of global learning, Catherine decided to adopt a multilingual approach. She felt that this would be more relevant and fun for children and teachers. Her interpretation of the new ‘Programme of Study’ is that although schools have to show that children have made substantial progress in one language, it didn’t mean that other languages couldn’t be taught.

Year 3 – initially the children talk about the languages spoken in their school and children are encouraged to teach some words of their home language, often with the support of a parent. This has proved very successful and it could be something which any school could do.

Then they embark on the Minimus Latin scheme. For anyone thinking of teaching Latin in their school, even as club, it is worth having a look this site <http://www.minimus-etc.co.uk/> There is a grant available to purchase resources.

Year 4 – the children learn Spanish for a year.

Year 5 – the children learn Japanese for a year. This is taught by a specialist teacher. The school received a grant from the Japan Foundation to pay for the teacher costs. The teaching is about both the language and the culture. If you are interested in offering this in your school, there are grants available from the Japan Foundation as well as a free scheme of work <http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_resources.php#primary> There are also resources available for hire here from the Japan Society <http://www.japansociety.org.uk/schools/> This could be good for use in a school assembly or project.

Year 6 – the children learn French

Catherine feels that the result of this multi-lingual approach is that both children and parents have been enthused about learning languages. They have learnt key skills in language learning and are motivated to continue learning languages in Key Stage 3.

Once again, many thanks to Catherine.

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

The meeting day has been changed to Thursday as some colleagues find that school meetings often clash on Wednesdays. It was agreed that the main focus of the meeting will be ‘Teaching Grammar’. If possible, can everyone come to the meeting with an idea for teaching grammar which has worked well. If you don’t have any ideas, just come along and get some inspiration. See you there.

**Thursday 3rd March 2016** 4.15-5.30pm at Keep Hatch Primary School, Wokingham RG40 1PG

**Next Meeting: Reading Primary MFL Hub**

Reading University TBC - contact Barbara King for more information b.king@reading.ac.uk

Sue Cave

19/11/15

Were you a

Language Detective today?

 

I am a

Language Detective!



I am a

Language Detective!



I am a

Language Detective!



I am a

Language Detective!



I am a

Language Detective!



I am a

Language Detective!

