

ALL Thames Valley Primary Languages Hub Meeting
Via Zoom
23/2/23

16 schools represented.

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

Introduction

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

Agenda

1. Sharing ideas, successes, concerns
2. News Updates
3. Bringing the world into the primary languages classroom

• **Sharing Ideas, Successes and Concerns**

The attendees shared the following:

- Concern that the teaching of languages continues to be squeezed out of the timetable due to pressures of catch-up in the main resulting in inconsistent weekly lessons
- One school celebrated the recent festival of Shrove Tuesday with typical German festival activities – it was good to do this after a break due to Covid
- One school had been really pleased that a competition between classes to use ‘phrase of the week’ had been very well received and engaged every class

• **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.

ALL Language World Conference

This will take place on 17th and 18th March in Leicester. There is a packed programme of presentations many on primary themes. You can find out more here [LW2023 \(delegate-reg.co.uk\)](http://LW2023(delegate-reg.co.uk))

PHOrum meeting

The ALL PHOrum meetings are for members of the association only and are free. The next one is on Thursday 9th March at 4pm. There will be 2 presentations: Using the EPI method in primary languages and poetry translation 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.tinyulr.com/phorum0323

The Languages Trend Survey

The British Council is once again conducting its annual language trends survey. So as to get an overall view of what is happening regarding the teaching of languages in primary schools all schools are invited to participate. It will not take long to complete this online survey [QuestBack](#)

French Summer School for Primary Language Teachers

The Institut français is offering a week in France from the 7th to the 11th August. It is a one week training course for non-specialist primary teachers who would like to build up their confidence in the language. The training fees and accommodation in a host family are paid for by the Institut français. The participant pays for the travel. Sounds like a great opportunity. [Teacher Training & Resources | Institut français du Royaume-Uni \(institut-francais.org.uk\)](#)

Year of the Rabbit

The British Council has produced some free resources for primary teachers to celebrate the year of the rabbit.

[Year of the Rabbit | British Council](#)

Language Angels Free Webinar

Language Angels are offering a free webinar 'Age related expectations in primary foreign languages' on the 16th March.

[Language Angels - Supporting effective SEND teaching & learning in primary foreign languages. \(onraport.net\)](#)

Festival of Speaking

The British Council is organising a virtual festival of speaking. It would like to receive recordings of children speaking in the target language which they are learning or their community language e.g. a sketch, a poem, a dialogue. More information here [Celebrate Speaking | British Council](#)

Collins Dictionaries Discount

There is a discount code available for 50% off Collins dictionaries until June 2023 – DICT23.

[Primary | Primary Dictionaries & Languages – Collins](#)

DELTEA Project

If you are interested in becoming involved in a research project in digital literacy skills in the MFL classroom, you can find out more here [I'm interested in participating in the DELTEA study \(office.com\)](#)

- **Bringing the world into the primary languages classroom**

We were very pleased to welcome a guest speaker on this topic Ellie Chettle Cully, the coordinator of the Leicester Primary Hub and a primary trained teacher of languages who is the subject leader of languages. Her school in Leicester is multilingual and multicultural and French is taught in the school.

Here is a link to her presentation <https://view.genial.ly/636d89971836620012cc10ba/presentation-celebrating-culture>

Here are some accompanying notes to each slide:

- Slide 1 – Ellie stressed that the activities which she is going to present today are ones which have been developed over the last 5 years in her school. She started with just one project and added more each year
- Slide 2 – In addition to the 3 language pillars, she feels that culture is equally as important and wanted to make sure it was included as it is something which all children can access and readily engage in. It is a way of opening up the world to children even if they do not have the opportunity to travel.
- Slide 3 – it was an atlas which Ellie received as a child which ignited her interest in other countries
- Slide 4 – initially she started by raising the profile of languages by celebrating the culture and languages of other countries on the European Day of Languages in September. Each class teacher planned activities, parents were invited to teach a 30 minute home language or share a storybook. Also the local Confucius Centre come into school to organize activities
- Slide 5 – key dates in the French calendar were identified and celebrated e.g. on the 14th July – teachers were given a bank of activities to do e.g. make Eiffel towers, cheese tasting, pétanque, a languages café. Ellie recommends contacting the 'community champion' in your local supermarket to access free foods in particular to use in a language day
- Slides 6 and 7 – then Ellie felt that she wanted a more multi-layered approach to including culture in the French curriculum. She wanted to weave culture and language. So she looked at her planning and slowly

adapted elements in each year group so that cultural elements could be included using the language to be taught,

- Slides 8 - 9 – In Year 3 using a book ‘Vive l’heure du goûter’ she decided to make a comparison of snacks in England and France. The language was taught using a phonics method (Physical French Phonics) and then subsequently the children created mini-books using the structure of I like/I do not like
- Slides 10 – 11 – In Year 4 – inspired by an idea of Rachel Hawkes – she explored the style of the artist Matisse. She revisited previously learnt vocabulary of colours and introduced shape vocabulary. The children designed an abstract animal in the style of Matisse using knowledge of phonics and grammar.
- Slides 12 -13 – In Year 5 – the theme is La francophonie. They had encountered this topic in KS1 but it is revisited practicing the vocabulary they know for weather, numbers and clothes. They are asked to say which clothes they would pack to visit a particular francophonie country.
- Slides 14 – 16 – the Dakar fashion week is the theme in Year 6. The vocabulary of clothing is reviewed and the children describe the outfits using knowledge of grammar about adjectival agreement and position. As well as learning new vocabulary for particular garments they also develop cultural understanding about them.
- Slides 17-18 – also in Year 6 whilst studying the topic of music they practise giving opinions regarding Senegalese music and learn about traditional west African instruments.
- Slides 18-19 – new this year will be a virtual French trip to a market to link with the topic of shopping in Year 5. There will be a French market set up in the playground staffed by Year 6 and students from the local university. The children will buy picnic food to eat.
- Slide 20 – Ellie feels that it is important to forge real connections with others in the French speaking world so each year group has a partner – Year 3 – Guadeloupe, Year 4 – Chad, Year 5 – Rwanda, Year 6 – Sénégal. With some classes there is the possibility to have Zoom calls with others it is email of postcards.
- Slide 21 – The Turing Scheme has replaced the Erasmus support for visits abroad. The closing date for this year is the 28th April. [Homepage - Turing Scheme \(turing-scheme.org.uk\)](https://www.turing-scheme.org.uk)
- Slides 22 – 23 - To create links try the British Council – Schools Connect - [Schools Connect | British Council](#). It is free to sign up and gives you access to schools looking for partners. Lots in France and Spain. Alternatively, try the British Council Connect Classrooms [Connecting Classrooms | British Council](#) to set up a partnership and the British Council will support you in this. There are many in Africa and Asia. Ellie is lucky in her school that 45 minutes a half term is timetabled as International Time to pursue these projects.
- Slide 24 – any international work in school can count towards the International School Award – there are different levels. It is a good way to get SLT on board as the awards can be displayed on the school website. [International School Award | British Council](#)
- Slides 25 -27 – Ellie wanted to create more cross-curricular links. Once a year there is a Francophonie art week when all the classes are off-timetable and each class studies an artist from their partner country. The children study the art techniques and life of the artist. This culminates in an exhibition. In addition, there are historical and geographical elements about the country. The books on e.g. Sénégal, Bolivia, Haiti from the publishers Scholastic have proved very useful.
- Slide 28 – all about ‘more with less’
- Ellie is very happy for you to contact her with any questions you may have. You can find her contact details in the presentation. Ellie was thanked for her very informative presentation.

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 10th May 2023** 4.15-5.45pm via Zoom. The theme of the meeting is ‘Recall and Retrieval Activities.’

Sue Cave

1/3/23