**ALL Thames Valley Primary Hub Meeting**

**Via Zoom**

**7/10/20**

18 schools represented.

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

**Introduction**

SC welcomed all members. There were some new members and ones who hadn’t attended for a while as well as the regulars. There were teachers from schools in Wokingham, Bracknell, Windsor and Maidenhead, Reading, Buckinghamshire, West Berks, Slough and Oxfordshire

**Agenda**

1. Sharing ideas, successes, concerns

2. News Updates

3. Teaching Grammar

* **Sharing Ideas, Successes and Concerns**

The attendees were put into break-out rooms and the following was discussed. The main topic of conversation was coping with the ‘new normal’.

* Lots of schools reported issues over lesson timing whilst adapting to the present situation. Some language lessons are very squeezed in an already packed timetable.
* Quarantining resources is an issue for most people but not all schools have the same arrangements regarding ‘bubbles’ – one school puts dictionaries into quarantine boxes so they can be used across the school on different days, whilst another has been teaching the children to use an online dictionary.
* Some schools are managing to sing, either whispering or singing quietly with everyone facing the front.
* Another school has still been able to allow children to have the ‘take home’ bags in which the children are keen to participate. The bags are quarantined on their return for 72 hours before being sent out again. Examples of what can be put in ‘take-home’ bag can be found on the Sharing Good Practice page <https://www.cavelanguages.co.uk/sharing-good-practice>
* It was good to hear that one of the schools in the group has achieved ‘intermediate level’ on the British Council international award scheme <https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/accreditation/international-school-award>
* **News and Updates**

**ALL Membership**

It costs £50 for a primary school to obtain membership of ALL for a year. Everyone is encouraged to join.

**ELAPSE**

This is a an Erasmus+ funded project which involved organisations from several countries and included ALL. It stands for Embedding Languages across Primary and Secondary Education. There was a presentation about this at the last meeting in May. We reported back to the project creators that it would be good if the resources could have sound files of the foreign language embedded within them. They have replied that this was a good suggestion and it has been acted upon. The resources are free and will be launched in November. Find out more here <https://www.all-languages.org.uk/event/elapse-project-launch-salt-conference/>

**ALL Primary Languages Conference Online**

This conference will take place on Saturday 17th October via Zoom. There will be 6 presentations on the theme of ‘Pillars of Progression’ There are still some tickets available (£5 for ALL members and trainees, £25 for non-members) but it is requested that all bookings be made by Tuesday 13th October to ensure that the payment process can be completed on time. <https://forms.gle/4ChK55XQfABzzMpR6>

**Free German CPD**

The Goethe Institute is offering a series of online seminars. The next one is on the 14th October and is entitled ‘Making use of rhythm and songs in the Primary German classroom’. <https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/spr/unt/ver/ver.cfm?fuseaction=events.detail&event_id=21968482&mc_cid=fcd16b6f19&mc_eid=35151aff51>

**BBC Bitesize KS2**

The new BBC Bitesize website is live. The languages are French, Spanish and Mandarin. There is a great interactive game which children can play at home as well as songs, stories, grammar and phonics information. Well worth a look. Here is the link to the French one <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty>

**Free online course for Primary Language teachers**

# This is a MOOC being offered by the University of Essex and Southampton. It is entitled ‘Teaching languages in primary schools: putting research into practice’. It is not too late to join the latest programme. It last for 3 weeks and requires about 3 hours of study per week at your own pace. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/teaching-languages-in-primary-schools-putting-research-into-practice>

# Institut français online activities

The Institut français is offering a wide range of activities online for primary schools via Microsoft Teams. Have a look at the list of activities and prices here <https://www.institut-francais.org.uk/education/primary-secondary-education/for-teachers/school-activities/at-your-school/?fbclid=IwAR0OAjJwpPhFjvumgzDSLxdwc0cBrgsRPQPrhoKPCNmvtbK2Po3kJNRPkDU>

**PHOrum**

PHOrum is a termly online meeting via Zoom for ALL members and is free. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th November 4.15-5.30pm. There will be updates from the ALL Roadshow and 2 presentations on primary themes. The programme for the year is being prepared and proposals for inclusion are welcomed. Send a title and a few lines to explain the content to primarylang@gmail.com by the 23rd October.

**Latest News**

Don’t forget the latest news can be found on the Cave Languages website in the Sharing Good Practice area. Alternatively, request the monthly newsletter to be sent to your email address

<https://www.cavelanguages.co.uk/sharing-good-practice>

* **Teaching Grammar**
* We started by looking at the KS2 Programme of study which relates to grammar and a discussion followed about what the’ key features’ of a language might be. The following was suggested: for German – the use of capital letters and word order; Spanish – adjectival agreement; French – adjectival agreement and elision.
* What was understood by ‘high frequency verbs’ was also discussed. Reference was made to a book by Lonsdale and Le Bras ‘A frequency dictionary of French’ the 10 most frequent verbs are: to be, to have, to be able, to do, to put, to say, to have to, to take, to give, to go
* It was felt that the teaching of grammar should enable children to speak and write in sentences which would become more complex over the 4 years in KS2. In order to do this, vocabulary for the different word classes should be taught.

We went into break-out rooms to discuss the following points:

* How do you teach and practise grammar?
* How do your learners demonstrate understanding of grammar
* In what order do you teach grammatical concepts

**Ideas for teaching, practising and showing understanding of grammar**

* Teach the masculine nouns first, then introduces the feminine ones and ask the children what they notice
* Teach gender by comparing to English e.g. waiter/waitress
* Explaining that all nouns are allocated to a family – the explanation is given through a story
* Using the terms masculine and feminine rather than male or female
* Teaching nouns with the indefinite article first and introducing the definite article once there is an understanding of plural and in the case of French an understanding of elision
* Games to practise grammar – Scrabble cards, Happy Families game, Pictionary
* Start a lesson by asking the children to write a sentence on a w/board to demonstrate a particular grammatical point – e.g. write a sentence using a noun and a colour adjective – this meets also the ‘writing from memory’ objective
* Write a sentence on the board with a deliberate grammatical mistake and the children have to spot it
* Unjumble the words in a sentence in order to demonstrate correct word order
* Invite the children to write a particular sentence several times but in different ways e.g. in bubble writing, with your left hand/right hand etc.
* Give children an opportunity to demonstrate understanding of grammar through creative writing projects – some examples on Cave Languages YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRgXukuNPKcq0B9Ubjau9Og?reload=9>

**Order of teaching grammatical concepts**

* There was not a lot of time remaining to discuss this but Sue pointed out a document on her website ‘KS2 Suggested French Grammar and Key Feature Content’ which is under ‘Teaching and Learning’ here <https://www.cavelanguages.co.uk/sharing-good-practice> There is also a presentation ‘Grammar Moves’ in the same section

**Next Meeting: Thames Valley Primary MFL 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 11th February 4.15-5.45pm via Zoom

The theme of the next meeting will be ‘Teaching SEND and EAL learners’. We will have a guest speaker to give a presentation on this – Ellie Chettle Cully who is an experienced teacher of languages in primary schools from the Leicester Primary Hub

Sue Cave

10/10/20