

From the Chat and from Twitter :

Just loving this conference. Thank you.

Agree, brilliant. Language folk are the best! :)

You have done an amazing job Sue and Steven!

The breakout rooms are a great idea, well done!

interesting discussion about Latin, opening children's minds to other cultures

Agreed, it's working brilliantly 😊

Many, many thanks for the fabulous day today- it was very informative and enjoyable

As a first time attendee of the ALL conference (small school, no MFL budget to speak of) I am so grateful to all the organisers and speakers for making this accessible on this online platform. I am enjoying every moment and have lots to keep me busy during a locked down half term. I have just messaged my HT to say how valuable I am finding it (a vague hint that I may be able to attend the next physical one when it is allowed) so, again, a huge thank you to all involved

I felt exactly like you when I first found ALL. Such a fantastic and supportive network of great linguists!

It's fantastic to have CDP focusing on PRIMARY languages!

Agree, primary linguists are the best - share the most and ends up as the best CPD

I have to go but thank you so much to all the people presenting today. It's been so interesting and informative as well as feeling great to be part of a community . Have a great holiday too :)

I want to be in the lesson in which all of today's speakers and Steven do a 10 min slot each! Now that would be some lesson! Merci mille fois à tous.! Today has really brought sunshine to our Lockdown Liverpool, cheered me up no end!

This was a great conference. Thanks for all for organising.

I have really enjoyed this conference - as a first time participant and recent ALL member. Working as a French tutor, it's been lovely to hear of people's ideas and experiences. well organised - personable yet highly professional. Merci

What an amazing day - totally awe-inspiring speakers who champion our cause so effectively. Thank you to speakers and to organisers. So appreciated.

Thank you so much everyone for a fabulous and thought-provoking day - I need a lie down now to process it all!

Marvellous conference - well done all & many thanks x

Fabulous day - have a good rest of the weekend, everyone xxx

Thank you to all involved for such an excellent day.

What a fabulous day. I love it when you come away feeling re-invigorated and ready to get cracking. Thank you to all the presenters and to Sue and Steven for such a professional job!

Thank you to all of today's presenters, you've been fab! Always leave feeling so inspired! So grateful.

Yes, must have been a logistical nightmare for Sue and Steven! Thank-you 😊

Thanks for a great conference. It was my first one...looking forward to the next already!

Gracias for my prize. Marvellous course as always, really enjoyed it. It's gone so fast.

A fabulous conference! Thank you so much for organising such amazing primary languages CPD.

So grateful to all the organisers and contributors - such a refresher at this point in a really difficult term. Lovely to see you all Xx

Thank you so much to all the organizers and presenters. I have really enjoyed today and learned so much. I also liked being able to see all the presentations and not being forced to choose. There are definitely some advantages of going online.

thank you thank you thank you..just wonderful!

Amazing day - so inspirational and it makes me so proud to be part of this fabulous community. It gives me lots of hope for the future!

The day has been very well organised. The effort to arrange and deliver from everyone has been amazing. Thank you again.

Thank you - this was my first ALL event. Looking forward to the next one!

Thanks for an amazing event :)

To put together such a quality conference VIRTUALLY is amazing!

Also my first ALL conference, I joined so that I could come to the conference, it has been great

It's been an amazing day, my first ALL conference and won't be my last. Off to join now, thank you so much to everyone involved!

Awesome raffle prizes - well done those who organised it and those who donated, very generous !

It really was a wonderful event, made all the more positive by the enthusiasm of delegates.

There really seemed to be a great buzz - even remotely. A great day!

Today was amazing - a really positive ALL family experience.

Great day, A* for the organisation and hosting. Quite a few people I spoke to in the breakout rooms were intending to become members. Really upbeat, positive event.

Thank you so much for organising Saturday. I thought it was brilliant. Organising a 6 hour Zoom event is a tall order but it was so worthwhile - varied, speakers all excellent, so many great ideas, & it's great to be part of the primary languages 'family'.

Such a boost for my own teaching. A big well done to you and Steven.

Thanks again for organising the primary languages virtual conference on Saturday - I can't tell you how amazing it was to have top quality CPD focusing exclusively on primary!

Saturday was fabulous! I can't tell you how much I loved it!

Wow! My first @ALL4language conference did not disappoint. I am inspired to take everything I have learnt into the classroom. Thank you to all involved! #ALLplconf

Reviews following the event :

I was fortunate to be able to attend the ALL Primary Languages Online Conference on Saturday 17th October. I really enjoyed the structure and format of the day- there was a varied mixture of presentations, which were really fun, interesting and thought provoking, and covered key pedagogical and curriculum design areas. I particularly enjoyed the resources and ideas for phonics and developing cultural awareness. Other fantastic aspects of the day were the breakout rooms, which gave delegates a brilliant opportunity to network and speak to each other, and the publishers' presentation and raffle. Finally, so many useful hints, tips and resources were shared via the chat.

Alistair Sage

ALL Primary Languages Conference Online ACAPULCO!!

Well true to the words of the Elvis song "Fun in Acapulco" that certainly was my experience on Saturday, unfortunately not in Acapulco but on line from my home in Cheshire!

A very well organised busy day, which began with a speech from MFL Ofsted Lead Michael Wardle followed throughout the day with presentations on Grammar, Phonics, vocabulary, cultural links, songs and stories.

Chat break -out rooms provided delegates with opportunities to share ideas

A virtual exhibition with a fun quiz to win amazing prizes. I can't tell you how excited I was to win a fab prize from Institut Francais .

Thank you so much to Steven and Sue for organising the event.

Janet Clarke

The Conference is always inspiring and thought-provoking, the themes are relevant and engaging, but beyond that it is also a wonderful opportunity to connect with other primary language practitioners and exchange ideas. I find it a great place to share tips, glean insights and reflect on the latest research and trends in MFL teaching. I return joyful and enthused each time - highly recommended!

Louise, Oxfordshire

I have always believed that as a trainee teacher, there is nothing more inspiring and motivating than being amongst other educators who are so passionate about what they do and the subjects they teach. For this reason, I signed up for my third Primary Languages Conference and was, once again, blown away. Despite this year's event taking place online, the atmosphere could still be felt through the screen and there was a true sense of community throughout the day. Each of the talks given by the fantastic speakers have really allowed me to consider what strategies I can implement in order to improve the learning experiences of my pupils and the progression they make within the subject. It was also fantastic to be given the opportunity to network with other educators from across the country, something that can often be difficult to achieve. I already look forward to the next event.

Amelia, York St John University

This has to have been one of the best conferences I have ever attended - so much food for thought...

Liz Lord, Portsmouth

I just wanted to say well done for coming up with and realising the idea of the online conference. I was able to join in live with nearly all of the sessions and was glad I did - it really felt like a live event.

I really enjoyed it and definitely took something from every session. Suzi's session on the use of authentic materials is something I would like to develop and provided a wealth of information and a lot to think about! Clare's session was useful as I am still thinking about the use of Knowledge Organisers and experimenting with them myself. I think my phonics teaching is getting better and better using Sue's approach - but my Y6 are not able to retain and apply their knowledge securely - so I will need to revisit the steps 1-7 and decide which needs a bit more time. The key note speech gave me the impetus to plan to draw out some strands from my SoW and make some threads more explicit. I look forward to looking through the virtual exhibition at a bit slower pace!

Sean Connor, Thames Valley

The conference was extremely well organised, from the clear booking and payment instructions, through the slick 'flipsnack' delegate pack, to the administration of the plenary talks and the breakout rooms for networking, which almost (but not quite) compensated for the lack of coffee and pastries! The talks were well chosen, very different in nature but all supporting the main theme of the pillars of progression. Although the speakers were well-known ALL stalwarts, who continue to give of their time and expertise so generously, it was clear from some of the comments in the chat thread that some of the delegates were first-timers, for whom the tips and techniques being shared were especially worthwhile. This shows that the decision to hold the conference online, although forced on us by circumstances, not only brought in participants in larger numbers, but also attracted newcomers who might not have committed themselves to the expenditure in time and money of travelling to a venue in person. The fact that you could fall out of bed and turn on your laptop at 9am will surely have helped, although I must say everyone was very professional – I didn't spot any in their pyjamas!

The messages that stuck in my mind were that *language awareness has a democratising function* from Rachel Hawkes, meaning that it opens up language learning to all pupils, not just those with a flair for it, and Sue Cave's reminder to begin by alerting pupils to the fact that *letters in other languages can make a different sound* – so simple, yet such a revelation for some.

Alison Organ

I signed up for the ALL online conference with a certain amount of trepidation: first day of my half-term holiday, still recovering from a horrible head-cold, would the online version be as good as the 'real thing'? But I'm so pleased that I did. The speakers were all excellent, bringing their usual blend of expertise, enthusiasm and food for thought, brilliantly brought together in a manageable and innovative format. What came as the most pleasing surprise of all though, was the way in which the 'chat' function and breakout rooms facilitated the same sort of networking and humour as usual. I felt as though I had spent the day in the company of my lovely 'primary languages tribe' without the travel costs!

Thank-you to everyone involved, and roll on the next one...

Helen Lawlor

I feel very pleased and grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the ALL Primary event online. There was a great family atmosphere where I felt a strong sense of community. To be honest, this is one of the things I value most from the ALL team, the sense of a big family where everyone is pointing in the same direction with a purpose: sharing our passion for languages. Not to forget the expertise of the professionals talking about languages - very inspiring, indeed. Also, I was fascinated by the organization and support provided by the ALL members and certainly enjoy the prize I

won at the raffle. ¡Gracias! *Mayte Romero*



ALL Primary Conference, October 17th 2020

Welcome to a whole new world of conference experiences! Even though the 200 participants who booked onto the conference could not enjoy their usual networking time around the lunch table or coffee station, they were not disappointed. In fact, it was obvious from the flow of comments on the chat facility that everyone was enjoying the sessions and keen to ask questions and to give their views. Comments came so thick and fast that it was difficult to keep up with the conversations and the avalanche of helpful links provided. Sue Cave must be commended for her expert management of the Zoom features to provide breakouts and a seamless flow between speaker presentations, networking in the breakout rooms and the virtual exhibition. Nothing was missing, apart from the chance to pick up freebies from the exhibition stands. That experience was replaced by a raffle to make the perfect, exciting end to an exhilarating day. Time seemed to fly by as delegates were focussed on the programme, with every item starting and finishing on time. We know that there is slippage during our usual conferences but we appreciated the power of the host. Sue had her finger on the key and could move on or mute as required.

Organisers, and in particular, Steven Fawkes, will have received many accolades in the evaluations, simply completed online. One came from Jayne Treasure, Director of the Primary Latin Project, who is a new and very welcome participant in our ALL events. Her words:

“What an excellent use of a Saturday! Totally focussed, practical advice and no waffle. I particularly liked the way the talks led on from one another, building upon the importance of the ‘pillars’ of grammar, phonics and vocabulary in the morning and then moving on to cultural capital and songs, stories and rhymes in the afternoon. The only problem is I now have a very long ‘to do’ list.”

Everyone who attended will have been delighted with the practical ideas they could immediately integrate into their teaching of primary languages or reflect at leisure on wise words and strategies for continuing to share their passion for languages with pupils in the most challenging of circumstances.

Zoom on, please, ALL!

Sue Balmer