

My name is Janet Clarke, I have worked for the past 18 years as a Teaching Assistant/HLTA at a rural primary school in West Cheshire.

In 2010 I was excited to take on the role of teaching and leading French



across the school and was determined to maintain the enthusiasm the children had for language learning. I recognised the need to enhance my own Professional Development and keep up to date with skills to engage the children in their learning to make lessons fun and enjoyable. At this time funding was available for language leaders to attend courses in Cheshire, and I was lucky enough to enroll on workshops which were organised by the inspirational Janet Lloyd, founder of the Primary languages Network, I came back to school buzzing with

enthusiasm.

In 2014 when learning a language in primary schools became part of the KS2 curriculum, the subject leader at my local high school contacted me about a workshop organised by ALL Manchester. Little did I know at the time that this was going to be the best thing that had ever happened for me. I met two more inspirational Language professionals (Geoff Bramall and Gina Hall) who made me so welcome and told me about the benefits of becoming a member of ALL.

I continued to attend the Saturday workshops in Manchester, joined the Association and I have never looked back. I attended the weekend conferences, speaking to so many amazing language professionals like Steven Fawkes who have helped me to build my confidence, knowledge and skills. I was so proud to be nominated as the Primary Language representative on the ALL Manchester committee.

Since that time I have been invited to speak about my role including progression and assessment in primary languages at the National College for School Leadership, the Northern Primary Languages Show at York S. John University and ALL Manchester. My French lesson with KS1 during our last Ofsted was also mentioned in our Outstanding Ofsted report. When home learning came with the pandemic I was proud to be part of a team of language teachers who were invited to talk about lessons children had completed. I was delighted to showcase a lesson from the Primary Languages network. In which Year 3/4 children used their language skills in role play, with parents involved, which was wonderful.

The children enjoy learning songs and raps, sharing their learning with parents at class assemblies. The youngest children in the school will come through the gate in the morning with a smile saying "Bonjour Madame Clarke". Year 6

children attend a residential in France in July and having accompanied them twice now I feel so proud when I hear them using their language skills to buy items at the market. Recently we have appointed Year 6 Language Ambassadors who are so eager to help with language activities across the school.

I set out to make language lessons fun and engaging for all our children and I believe that I have succeeded, which gives me great satisfaction.