**The impact of international links on Whitehouse Common Primary**

**Summary in bullet points:**

* Our journey began in 2006 and is still ongoing.
* What we’ve achieved has taken time and lots of effort!
* We’ve done projects through eTwinning, Connecting Classrooms, Comenius Regio and Erasmus+ but also used Postcrossing, taken part in projects that started in eTwinning then became bigger (like Voices of the World) and also made links through pupils eg with a school in Ghana.
* None have been specifically based around language but many have included Spanish.
* Projects that support language learning don’t have to be in the language you’re delivering – sometimes the best language learning moments have come from other languages eg all learning Turkish together; Greek and Spanish speaking children excited to talk to our partners in Greece and Spain; pupils going on an Arabic day and coming back to share it with their Arabic speaking peers.
* Involve everyone – including the support staff! Ours have been invaluable and loved being involved.
* SLT support is important – it can make or break a project! Mine have been wonderful and ever more supportive.
* Making international links doesn’t have to be the job of the language coordinator – others can do it and certainly be involved.
* Some of the best projects and the easiest to manage add to or develop things you’re already doing or wanting to focus on.
* Explain to parents what you’re doing.

**Positive effects on our school community**

* A change in the school ethos and approach to ‘otherness’
* EAL children no longer hide their additional language – we call being able to fluently talk another language their ‘superpower’!
* Other children are more confident to share their language learning, connections with other countries and relatives who may speak another language.
* We celebrate ALL languages and cultures. Our motto No Outsiders is lived out by our pupils who value one another’s heritage and would happily spend hours talking about the countries that mean something to them, their festivals, the languages and their experiences.
* Whilst it’s rare that children who speak little/no English come to school, when they do, they’re welcomed and supported
* The school community now expect international things to happen – it’s become so integrated into our curriculum and school over the years.
* Thanks to our projects and the work we’d done over the years, pupil discussions about things like Brexit were thoughtful and informed by experiences, and recent discussions about the situation in Ukraine and even ‘Remembrance” in Germany showed really mature thought. Ch were concerned about children in Ukraine as they had ‘met’ some through the Hands of the World project so were really eager to take part in this video <https://youtu.be/hXW3TyvPiys>
* It has given a purpose to learning and an audience for learning outcomes too
* Stereotypes and misconceptions have been challenged and discussion promoted eg Spanish ladies all wear flamenco dresses, Mexicans wear big hats with pom pom fringes, Germans are ‘bad’ and so on
* We have a huge bank of resources on which to pull – some are physical resources but many are ideas, experiences and points of reference

**How to make links**

* Use links that already exist within your school community – it’s surprising what you discover if you ask!
* Is your town/city twinned with another town? Explore links that way. <https://infogalactic.com/info/List_of_twin_towns_and_sister_cities_in_the_United_Kingdom>
* British Council - <https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources> esp School Connect <https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/schools-connect> and Partner finding <https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/partner>
* Global Schools Alliance – <https://www.globalschoolalliance.com/>
* Match my School - <https://www.matchmyschool.net/>

**Links to explore from presentation**

* International links video made for our virtual tour (created early 2021) <https://youtu.be/N-KRtccvI2M>
* Our Erasmus blog <https://whitehouse-common-primary-school.primarysite.blog/>
* Wakelets of all tweets [https://wakelet.com/@Lisa588](https://wakelet.com/%40Lisa588)
* Whole project blog <https://erasmusplusletsgocultural.blogspot.com/>
* Hello song <https://youtu.be/3-oJLQ2JSFE>
* Christmas research video <https://youtu.be/gsvJo0nlpF4>
* Collaborative dictionary <https://www.storyjumper.com/book/read/127367672/6223575eb4388>
* We’re going on a Bear Hunt in 5 languages and Makaton – <https://www.loom.com/share/baff3c10b8b24ceab0405eb56cf1ac1b>
* The Hungry Caterpillar in 5 languages – <https://www.loom.com/share/7e7ab8218157471f90778360d7a543cb>
* Lunch at 10 Pomegranate Street <https://www.loom.com/share/ba199c2f0c0d401f8b54a570a4bfcdcc>
* Around the world in 80 books <https://padlet.com/MrsWoodDHT/zfwygb46bn62jf6u>
* Hands of the World videos – 1 This is Me <https://youtu.be/i4JGjXEl2AQ> 2. A million dreams [https://youtu.be/9tvlSuGbCPg 3](https://youtu.be/9tvlSuGbCPg%203). I’d like to teach the world to sing <https://youtu.be/9p_Wd5CRaKo> 4 Dancing in the street [https://youtu.be/KPAoomXUBck 5](https://youtu.be/KPAoomXUBck%205). How far I’ll go <https://youtu.be/FvNXGr6SFL0> 6 500 miles (teachers!) <https://youtu.be/b268xoYLmFU> Imagine <https://youtu.be/hXW3TyvPiys>
* Postcrossing <https://www.postcrossing.com/>
* Our Postcrossing page <https://www.postcrossing.com/user/SraStevens>
* Postcrossing map - <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1tRZcQSAB7R0NxWhKdz_CT1hHl2BWlUlA&ll=1.849658941967789%2C0&z=2>
* Toys the Travellers Twinspace - <https://twinspace.etwinning.net/69689/home>
* How’s your Christmas cards project <https://youtu.be/IJMpGvkY7KY>
* Green Kids Padlet <https://padlet.com/nocilla13/greenkids>
* Culture Postcard project - <https://platform.globalschoolalliance.com/groups/culture-postcard-project/>