

## e-Update December 2008

Welcome to the 45th edition of e-Update, the monthly electronic bulletin from the Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team.

The purpose of this bulletin is to keep you informed with the latest developments in ICT.

---

The information in e-Update has been taken from Becta and other information sources. Details on how to subscribe to these can be found at the end of e-Update.

For information on how to subscribe to/ unsubscribe from e-Update, please see the section towards the end of e-Update.

e-Update can also be found on the Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team's website at <http://www.bucksict.org.uk/e-update/> and on the Buckinghamshire Grid for Learning website at <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=126>.

If you have any comments on e-Update, please send them to [adickson@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:adickson@buckscc.gov.uk).

---

### **Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2008/9 – Christmas Fun Race Results**

**Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant**

Cambridgeshire Software House (CSH) have just run their Christmas Fun Race which was open to all age ranges. Several Buckinghamshire schools participated and I'm please to tell you that the winners of the primary category are Woodside Junior! Congratulations!! They were also second in the overall competition, finishing only two hundredths of a second behind the winning secondary school. For coming first in the primary category they have received a range of prizes for the children and the school including a DVD camcorder. Congratulations also go to Prestwood Junior who achieved a very commendable third place in the primary category.

Further details can be found on the Challenge website:

<http://www.mathschallenge.co.uk/christmas-fun-race.html>

### **Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2008/9 in Buckinghamshire**

**Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant**

The Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge has now become well established in the calendars of many schools across the UK as a way of engaging children of all ages in an exciting and motivating mathematics based project that is suitable for all ages from 10 upwards.

The Challenge is based on Cambridgeshire Software House's 'Cars Maths in Motion' software and is sponsored by Jaguar, the Specialist Schools Trust, Cambridgeshire Software House, iDesk, Quizdom, Rapid, Alta, Swallow Systems, Rewards4Schools and Wildern School.

The Challenge involves students, aged 10 to 16, working together in small teams to try and set up a race between virtual Grand Prix cars using tried and tested motor racing simulation software. The work needed to do this can be undertaken in a series of maths lessons or as part of a maths club activity - it's up to you! Both boys and girls will become involved in the delights of long division, long multiplication, percentages, scale, the measuring of angles with protractors, ratio and a whole lot more besides. A full list of what is covered can be found on the Challenge website <http://www.mathschallenge.org.uk>.

The aim of the Challenge is to help raise standards of achievement in mathematics in all schools and to demonstrate that mathematics is not only a useful skill to have but one that can be fun and stand students in good stead throughout life.

The 2008/09 Challenge is open to any school in either the State or Independent sectors. There are three age ranges in the 2008/09 Challenge:

Age Range 1: Any child of Primary School age.

Age Range 2: Any child in years 7, 8 and 9.

Age Range 3: Any child in years 10 and 11.

The Challenge is run through a national network of Lead Centres. The ICT Curriculum Support Team is the Lead Centre for Buckinghamshire Schools.

Each participating school, whether Primary or Secondary, will run a series of internal races to find its own winner who will take part in a Buckinghamshire knockout round in March 2009. Schools that make it through the knockout round will meet in April 2009 for the Buckinghamshire Final. The Buckinghamshire primary, KS3 and KS4 winners will then race with other LAA winners in the national semi-final knockout round to determine which schools are invited to take part in the National Final in June 2009.

A leaflet with information on the Maths Challenge including pricing and an order form for the Cars: Maths in Motion software is available here:

<http://www.bucksict.org.uk/Teacher%20Resources/CarsMIM.htm>

<http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=127>

Any Buckinghamshire schools who would like to be involved in the Maths Challenge should contact Andy Dickson, tel. 01296 334994, email [adickson@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:adickson@buckscc.gov.uk).

### **The BucksGfL Learning Portal and electronic school to home communication**

#### ***Mike Woods, ICT Adviser***

The recently announced DCSF 'On Line' or 'Real Time Reporting' initiative requires parents to have secure, online access to information on their child's progress, achievement, attendance, behaviour and special educational needs, when and from where they please. This requirement has to be achieved by 2010 in secondary schools and 2012 in primary schools.

However, it has been brought to my attention that several Buckinghamshire schools have recently been targeted in a somewhat aggressive marketing campaign by a company selling an 'electronic school to home communication system' using the DCSF 'Real Time Reporting' requirements as the rationale for purchasing their system.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure all schools that are part of the BucksGfL broadband network that we will be providing you with a comprehensive system that more than complies with the DCSF requirements before the deadlines and at no extra cost to you in addition to your normal BucksGfL subscription.

Amongst other features, the system – known as the BucksGfL Learning Portal (or BLP) is designed to provide schools with an online 'Portal' through which users will be able to access their Moodle VLE and an on-line E-portfolio space we are providing for each pupil. BLP will also allow teachers and parents to communicate with each other and access information (normally held within SIMS) about learners.

The project has just entered the pilot phase involving 25 primary and secondary schools and is planned to roll out to all schools within BucksGfL by 2010. More information can be found on <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk> on the ict/broadband page.

If you have any questions about the project please do not hesitate to contact me by email at: [mawoods@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mawoods@buckscc.gov.uk) or by telephone on 0794 123 9537.

### **Toner cartridge collections – a warning**

#### ***Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant***

I received this message from Debbie Hill at Juniper Hill:

*Someone came into the school pretending they were a delivery driver to pick up empty toner cartridges that we collect and as I was away 2 big boxes were handed over to them. Of course we had no paperwork and the office did not know that they were fake. This has happened before ages ago.*

If you have toner cartridges collected from your school, please be aware of this.

## **Buckinghamshire ICT Conference and Exhibition**

### ***Mike Woods, ICT Adviser***

When: On Tuesday 10th February 2009 from 10.30 to 3.30

Where: Civic Centre Aylesbury, Market Square, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UF

Why: We have two themes this year:

#### 1. E-safety.

The internet has changed the way we live. We use it for shopping, games and leisure. Many people go on line to keep in touch with friends and make new ones but, like many things the internet can have a downside. For example, reports of fraud and identity theft are common. However, the biggest worry for many people working in the social care or educational field is the potential danger to children, if this is a concern for you then come along and listen to inspirational speakers and find out about how we can minimise this very real threat.

#### 2. Launch of the Buckinghamshire Learning Portal (or BLP)

The DfES e-strategy document "Harnessing Technology: Transforming Learning and Children's Services" describes the use of digital and interactive technologies to achieve a more personalised approach within all areas of education and children's services and identifies how we should harness technology such as Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) and e-Portfolios to satisfy the educational needs of children, learners, parents, teachers, carers, and employers. In addition, the recently announced DCSF Online Reporting (Real Time Reporting - RTR) initiative requires parents to have secure online access to information on their child's progress, achievement, attendance, behaviour and special educational needs, when and from where they please. The BucksGfL Learning Portal (BLP) project is designed to provide schools with an online 'Portal' through which users will be able to access their VLE and E-portfolio space, BLP will also allow teachers, pupils, and parents to access information about learners and monitor their progress as well as complying fully with Online Reporting requirements. Completely FREE to all BucksGfL schools BLP has been successfully implemented as a pilot with a small cohort of schools and is now ready for a wider roll out, so come along to find out what it can do for you!

In addition to seeing some of the exciting work being done by Buckinghamshire schools as they develop a creative and Innovative approach to Personalised Learning through the medium of ICT you will also have a chance to see some of the recent developments in ICT hardware and software from over 40 leading suppliers.

How: The conference is free for all delegates and we are also able to offer each primary school that sends a delegate to this important event a grant of £75 to offset some of their costs. We are also providing a free lunch for everyone that attends.

Booking: You can book online at <http://www.eml-events.co.uk/event/bucks>

Further information will be available on <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk> or please contact:

Mike Woods, Bucks County ICT Adviser ([mawoods@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mawoods@buckscc.gov.uk))

## **Vision Magazine No. 8**

### ***Futurelab***

The latest issue of Futurelab's bi-annual magazine features articles on informal learning, computer games in education, neuroscience and learning, Positive Activities for Young People, planning for the future, and an interview with Children's Commissioner Sir Al Aynsley-Green. You can read these articles online, download the magazine as a pdf, or join the mailing list to receive hard copies of VISION.

Further details at <http://www.futurelab.org.uk/resources/publications-reports-articles/vision-magazine>

## **Ictopus – December's Lessons2go**

### ***Ictopus***

Ictopus (ICT online primary user support) is a support service for primary education. Anyone can sign up for the service (free of charge) and will then receive each week a six page printable magazine and a set of activity suggestions. There will also be a regular newsletter or e-bulletin. These resources (and more) will be archived on the ictopus website <http://www.ictopus.org.uk> where there will also be access to classroom

activities and a variety of other resources and projects. Ictopus builds on the Becta Direct2U service and also the legacy of MAPE (Micros and Primary Education).

Login first, then access the activities via Resources and lessons2go.

*Available on 17th December 2008*

The Early Years offering may be useful to both Early Years and KS1. All of the Early Years lessons are newly written and it is very time consuming coming up with ideas. If any Early Years subscribers would like to send in some outline ideas, the team will be happy to convert them into full lesson plans. Please consider sharing some of your super ICT activities!

The Logo from Scratch lesson might be worth looking at for all primary educators. If you have not used Scratch yet, it is free and it contains elements which would be suitable for all primary ages and abilities (even the teachers!)

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 3 to 5: Winter Wonderland  
This week's suggestion is to make use of free online resources to support teaching and learning in Early Years. If you have not visited Sparkle Box for a while, it may be time to go and look at the super resources there. Many are free, and they are all of superb quality.
- Age 6 to 7: RE, Stories That Jesus Told  
Working in small groups, the children use ICT to make 'Big Books' of stories that Jesus told, for children in Year 1 to use in their Literacy hour for example. They plan out the sequence of how the story is to be told and how it will be illustrated.
- Age 8 to 9: ICT, Logo from Scratch  
This activity uses a piece of software which can be used at many levels and for different purposes. It is freely downloadable from the internet. The suggested activities are selected to fit in with the work expected of this age of child.
- Age 10 to 11: English, Bandersnatchy  
In this activity children will use the internet and word processors to explore portmanteau words and create a poem.

*Available on 10th December 2008*

D & T, History and Maths make up the selection for the penultimate set of lessons this term.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 5 to 6: Design and Technology, Where Will Your Pet Live?  
This activity can be undertaken as part of a series of lessons looking at homes. Using a website, pupils will find out about different animals and their needs and then design and build a home for one type of pet.
- Age 7 to 8: History, The Boudicca Rebellion  
In this activity, that develops awareness of the different interpretations that can be put upon history, children create a Roman or a Celtic newspaper by selecting, cutting and pasting appropriate statements.
- Age 9 to 10: Maths, Fitting Shapes Together  
This lesson is about encouraging children to look at shapes that tessellate. They will then move on to create their own shape and to tessellate it.

*Available on 3rd December 2008*

This is the second week of the seasonal activities based either on winter or Christmas.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 5 to 6: Pop-up Cards  
This activity is about making pop-up cards. An online video is used to support the activity.
- Age 6 to 7: Paint a Snowman  
In this activity children will use the geometric shape functions in a paint package to create a winter scene.
- Age 7 to 8: Decorate a Christmas Tree  
In this activity children will use the shape functions in a paint package to paint and dress a Christmas tree.

- Age 8 to 9: Christmas Branching Tree  
This activity makes use of Christmas pictures to create a branching database. The activity describes the use of an example and practical activities to set the scene for creating branching databases. The activity may be best split over more than one session.
  - Age 9 to 10: Father Christmas in the Blogosphere  
Children will use a blog to participate in the creation of a multi-user Christmas-related story.
  - Age 10 to 11: Developing Christmas Games with PowerPoint  
In this lesson children will first play and then adapt a number of Christmas themed games using PowerPoint. They will combine text, images and sounds to create their games. These files are zipped for your convenience.
- 

## Subscribing/ Unsubscribing to e-Update

Teachers in Buckinghamshire schools that are connected to BucksGfL Broadband can receive e-Update by email to their BucksGfL email address.

### To subscribe:

1. Visit the BucksGfL website <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk>.
2. Click on the **Login** link in the top right corner.
3. Login using your BucksGfL username and password (your BucksGfL username is the first part of your BucksGfL email address i.e. the bit before the @. Your password is the same as for your email).
4. In the Course Categories section on the main page, click on **ICT**, then click on **e-Update**.
5. You will be asked if you would like to enrol on the e-Update course. Choose **Yes**.

Once you are enrolled, you will be emailed each edition of e-Update to your BucksGfL email address when they are posted on the BucksGfL website.

**Note:** If you don't wish to use your BucksGfL email address or don't have one (i.e. your school is not connected to BucksGfL Broadband or you are outside Buckinghamshire) then e-Update will still be available to you. However, you will have to download it from the Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team's website at <http://www.bucksict.org.uk/e-update/> or the Buckinghamshire Grid for Learning website at <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=126>

### To unsubscribe:

6. Visit the BucksGfL website <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk>.
  7. Click on the **Login** link in the top right corner.
  8. Login using your BucksGfL username and password (your BucksGfL username is the first part of your BucksGfL email address i.e. the bit before the @. Your password is the same as for your email).
  9. In the Course Categories section on the main page, click on **ICT**, then click on **e-Update**.
  10. On the left, click on the **Unenrol me from e-Update**.
- 

## Subscription Details

### Becta

To subscribe to the various publications, click here: [Becta Schools Subscription Services](#)

### RM

To subscribe to the various RM newsletters, visit the RM website at <http://www.rm.com/Security/Login/FormsLogin.asp> and register. If you are already registered, log in and go to *Email Subscriptions* in *My Account*.

---

### Disclaimer and Copyright Notice

The information contained in e-Update is collated from a range of non-Buckinghamshire LEA sources. Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team does not accept any liability for its accuracy or content. If

you rely on this information you do so at your own risk. All information may be copied for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the source is acknowledged.