

e-Update January 2009

Welcome to the 46th 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.

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 Josie Fraser at 11.00am. Josie frequently works with the charity Childnet International, and was one of a team of two who delivered the *Safe To Learn: Cyberbullying Guidance* for the UK's Department for Children, Schools and Families. She recently produced *Young People and Social Networking Services*, a research project commissioned by Becta, and is currently working on the production of cyberbullying advice to support UK school staff on behalf of Childnet for the DCSF.

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)

The Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum: Interim Report

Teachernet

Starting with a rationale for the curriculum, this interim report segments the Secretary of State's remit letter into the following five aspects, each of which will be subjected to further analysis and refinement for the final report: curriculum design and content; reading, writing, numeracy and ICT; personal development; transition and progression; and introducing languages at Key Stage 2.

Those who wish to respond to this report are invited to do so, by 28 February 2009, via the Review website (http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_15561.aspx), by writing directly to: Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum, 2nd Floor Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT or by emailing: primary.curriculum@dcf.gov.uk.

The report can be downloaded from
http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/IPRC_Report.pdf

Support for schools on using open source software

Becta

Schools can now get help from a new community website to help them decide whether open source software might offer benefits for them.

The Open Source Schools website <http://opensourceschools.org.uk> provides resources for schools to find out about the benefits that open source software can bring to learning, teaching, engaging pupils and parents, managing information and resources, and school administration.

Central place is given to a range of case studies about open source implementation and development in schools. The site also offers forums, in which heads, teachers, technicians and others can discuss their experiences of this alternative model of software acquisition, distribution and development. The site highlights blogs that feature open source in education, news stories and links to open source software developers' websites.

The website is part of a project supported by Becta which aims to raise the awareness of open source software.

Inspired Issue 2

Futurelab

Welcome to inspirED - a collection of news and stories to inspire anyone interested in innovative approaches to teaching and learning. The website is updated three times a year; Issue 2 is now online.

News

News stories covered in this issue include: a website featuring the Future 100 Young Entrepreneurs, the Heads Count network of headteachers, an Ofsted report on the adoption of VLEs, the Shoot Nations exhibition for young photographers, and research from the Young National Children's bureau investigating the way teens are represented in the media.

BETT 2009

This issue includes some news from BETT 2009, including: Acklam Grange School's experiments with Second Life, the launch of Becta's Next Generation Learning Charter, and a new film archive (the Roland Collection).

Cool Stuff

News from Macworld 2009, a review of the Nikon Coolpix P6000 digital camera, Channel 4 Education's Dictum and Alterego, and a round-up of new tools including Cooliris, Microsoft's Deep Zoom and a new layer in Google Earth.

<http://inspired.futurelab.org.uk>

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 7th January 2009

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- **Age 5 to 6: Science, Sources of Light**
Children explore sources of light in the real world, both in and out of school. Later, photographs taken during the exploration are used to stimulate discussion. They could also be used by the teacher to create a multimedia representation of sources of light in the environment.
- **Age 7 to 8: Maths, Investigating triangles**
This lesson is about looking for triangles within a pentagon where each vertex is joined to every other. The lesson is presented in a games format. A PowerPoint demonstration is used to show and count each of the triangles. These files have been zipped for your convenience.
- **Age 9 to 10: PE, Dance Video**
Video can be used to support dance in several ways. In this lesson it is used at the beginning as a means of researching varieties of dance. It is then used at the end of the topic to produce a finished product which can be edited and refined.

Available on 14th January 2009

This week's activities are bursting with fun. Three of the activities are very adaptable. The floor robots work could easily be adapted to fit in with a cross curricular topic, dressing up the floor robot, and making the skittles fit in with the theme. Swap your Brussels sprouts for any other cause which needs a persuasive text to support it! Use the MFL idea for any language, or for ESL (English as a Second Language) work. Dip into them all and have some fun.

If you would like to contribute some animal homes images, these could go in a Pictopus folder for everybody to use to support this week's Animal Homes activities. It would be great to have three photographs for each animal; the animal, the home and the animal in the home. These photographs would be great for sorting. Send any images to us using the 'contact us' link. (Any images would become copyright of ictopus.)

- **Age 3 to 5: Animal Homes**
This activity makes use of a super interactive website which gives practice both in animal names and where different animals live. There is also scope for word recognition, although this is not needed as the website reads out the words. Loads of ideas for follow-up work are included.
- **Age 6 to 7: D & T, Floor Robots in the Skittle Park**
Playing skittles is fun, and this activity adds an extra dimension because pupils have to use a programmable robot to knock down the skittles. If you have more than one robot, they could compete simultaneously. This activity will last for more than one lesson.
- **Age 8 to 9: English, Beautiful Brussels Sprouts**
Working in groups, children will use ICT to construct advertising material for Brussels sprouts.
- **Age 10 to 11: MFL, Voici Mon Monstre**
Using multimedia software, pupils design their own funny monster picture, and record their description of it, which is then hyperlinked to the page. These activities could be easily adapted for other languages.

Available on 21st January 2009

- **Age 5 to 6: History, When I was Very Young**
In this activity children will use word processors with word banks to create labels for pictures of themselves (or others) at different stages of their lives. They will arrange these chronologically.
- **Age 7 to 8: Maths, Fashionable Shoes**

In this activity, children create computer-generated frequency graphs about different aspects of footwear (size, type, fastening) and use these to test hypotheses such as 'most children prefer wearing trainers'. An Excel file is supplied to support the activity. These files are zipped for your convenience.

- Age 9 to 10: RE, The Five Pillars of Islam
In this activity, pupils use a selection of websites to gather information on the Five Pillars of Islam so they can make a presentation to the rest of the group. These files are zipped for your convenience.

Available on 28th January 2009

The Early Years lesson builds on the previous lesson on Animal Homes. Have you sent in any animal homes photographs for the Pictopus Gallery? If not please search them out now and send them in using the 'contact us' link on the ictopus website.

This week we have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 3 to 5: What Pets Do
As a follow-up to animal homes this activity is centred on pets. The children will look at a series of photographs of cats and then think about pets they know. It provides a starting point and provides prompts for them to talk about their own pets and pets they know. The photographs are found in the Pictopus gallery.
- Age 6 to 7: Science, Car Ramps
The children investigate how the height of a ramp affects the distance travelled by toy cars released from the top. The teacher enters their results into a computer graphing program and presents them as a bar chart. The chart is then used to analyse the result and aid explanation.
- Age 8 to 9: Art, It's Only a Dream
This activity uses a resource 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, Furniture Game Sequences
Children will use a range of software to create, illustrate and present a collaborative poem sequence.

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.***

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Becta

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RM

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