

e-Update February 2009

Welcome to the 47th 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 - Rescheduled

Mike Woods, ICT Adviser

When: On Thursday 12th March 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.

Note: This event was previously scheduled for 10th February and had to be postponed owing to adverse weather conditions. Therefore, if you have previously booked online you do not need to re-register. For those of you who have not booked and would like to attend, please visit the website link below to book your place.

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)

e-Learning Foundation news

Lucy Hawkins, e-Learning Foundation

I will be exhibiting at the Buckinghamshire ICT Conference on Thursday 12th March, and this email is a warm invitation to book a meeting with me!

The e-Learning Foundation is growing and currently supports more schools than ever before with an equitable and sustainable model of 1:1 access to learning technologies - in school and at home too.

We have offered schools £1.6 million in grant funds since September, and will be working closely with Becta's Home Access programme in the future, offering schools the chance to aggregate this new funding into a 1:1 project for all students.

Do get in touch to find out more, and feel free to pass my details on to any schools who may also be interested!

Lucy Hawkins, Schools Liaison Manager (South)

Mobile: 07826 844707

FREE publication on redesigning learning spaces

Futurelab

Futurelab has just published a new report on primary learning spaces that will aid those involved in the redesign of educational learning spaces, particularly the PCP and BSF programmes, and **FREE copies** are available on request (while stocks last).

'Reimagining Outdoor Learning Spaces' aims to inspire and provoke creative thinking regarding outdoor learning and play spaces. It urges those involved in redesign to be innovative, radical, pioneering and to rethink the possibilities offered by this once-in-a-generation opportunity to help reshape and improve the broad educational experience for all young people – outdoor space is a vital element contributing to any child's development and educational experiences.

To **view the publication online and to request a FREE copy**, please visit <http://www.futurelab.org.uk/resources/publications-reports-articles/handbooks/Handbook1187>. If you would like to request multiple copies to distribute to a network or at an event, then please e-mail claire.denney@futurelab.org.uk.

For those interested in the redesign of learning spaces the following new online report (on a project where learners were co-designers of an outdoor interactive water fountain) may also be of interest: <http://www.futurelab.org.uk/projects/fontaineers/research>

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.

ICT Assessing Pupils Progress at Key Stage 3 Materials

Teachernet

Assessing Pupils' Progress (APP) is a structured approach to periodic assessment, enabling teachers to: track pupils' progress over a key stage or longer; and use diagnostic information about pupils' strengths and weaknesses to improve teaching, learning and rates of pupils' progress.

Using APP materials, teachers can make more consistent level-related judgements in National Curriculum subjects. The APP approach improves the quality and reliability of teacher assessment and has proved to be robust, manageable and effective in practice.

This pack contains: a handbook for teachers; ICT Assessment Criteria; and 3 Standards Files which enable classroom teachers to have a common understanding of different levels and the nature and demands of the assessment focuses that underpin each one.

Note: materials are meant for KS3 but include samples of folders at levels 4 and 5, so may be of interest to primary teachers. There will be a level 3 sample sometime in March.

[Visit the website to download the materials](#)

Ictopus – February'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 4th February 2009

This offers another opportunity to use the Ladybug Mazes activity in a different context. Headphones are useful for the music activity; some of the sound effects could drive a teacher to despair. The MFL idea could be easily adapted for different topics and different ages. Have fun!

- Age 5 to 6: Maths, First Turtle
This lesson is about introducing children to turtle graphics (i.e. a one-key version of logo). Through the use of this program they can begin to experiment with length, direction and amount of turn (in multiples of 90 degrees).
- Age 7 to 8: Music, Rhythmic Patterns
Here, children will use musical composition software with icons to represent musical phrases to develop and refine a rhythmic composition.
- Age 9 to 10: MFL, Word Searches
This activity combines online word searches and related paper activities. A number of URLs are recommended below. The online activities add interest and give inspiration for making word searches using pen and paper. Although the free online activities are limited there is some scope for using them at different levels of difficulty. Check the websites thoroughly for any unsuitable links.

Available on 11th February 2009

Here are the next four Lessons2go. The Early Years lesson makes use of a series of interactive activities on the Teacher Resource Exchange. If these prove popular then a set for numbers 6 to 10 may be uploaded. At the opposite end of the age range there is a fun set of jigsaws to complete to solve a problem.

- Age 3 to 5: Number Recognition; One to Five
This set of interactive resources is intended to support the recognition of the numerals one to five. Used in conjunction with other teaching materials they would help increase the confidence and motivation of the children.
- Age 6 to 7: English, Finding Out About Authors
Children will use websites dedicated to children's books to find out information about favourite authors and their books.
- Age 8 to 9: Citizenship, Words About Me
This activity fits well into any unit of work which helps to build up self awareness and self confidence. It makes a good introduction, encouraging the children to think about themselves. It makes use of a web site which has been mentioned on the ictopus 'newsblog'.
- Age 10 to 11: Problem Solving, Jigsaw Puzzlers
This activity makes use of pictures from the Pictopus Picture Gallery and clip art images to create 5 jigsaw puzzles for the children to complete. The puzzles themselves make up a part of a larger mystery. These files have been zipped for your convenience.

Available on 25th February 2009

There are two brand new lessons this week; one for music and one for Maths. The estimation activity in maths uses an idea which could be adapted for other ages. Two of the lessons point you to an activity uploaded to the Teacher Resource Exchange. Read more about this super resource in the Sharing Good Practice of week 51.

- Age 5 to 6: Music, Long and Short Notes
In this activity the children use representations to record a series of long and short notes. They then use these as a score to play their music.
- Age 7 to 8: Science, Teeth
This activity uses a resource from the Teacher Resource Exchange to support work on the types and structure of teeth. The resource may be downloaded free of charge and used off line.
- Age 9 to 10: Maths, Estimation
This lesson uses a set of 5 photographs to teach about estimating lengths. It also introduces notions of scale and ratio.

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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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*.

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