

e-Update March 2009

Welcome to the 48th 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.

Subscribe to inspirED.

Futurelab

inspirED is a collection of news and stories to inspire anyone interested in innovative approaches to teaching and learning. It is updated three times a year - the next issue will be available at the end of March. Please use our subscribe form to sign up for e-mail reminders. Further details at <http://inspired.futurelab.org.uk/>

ShoutBox

Futurelab

ShoutBox is a cross-platform tool which allows young people to recognise, capture and showcase their informal out-of-school learning experiences, in different categories such as sports, art, music etc. It has now been nominated in the Mobile Communications category at the Media Innovation Awards. Further details at <http://www.futurelab.org.uk/projects/shoutbox>

Teachers TV - Tomorrow's Teacher

TeacherNet

Teachers TV, in association with the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council), has launched an exciting, cross curriculum project called Tomorrow's Teacher. The aim is to inspire teachers and their students to imagine the future and consider how today's rapid pace of change will impact upon the educational needs of the next generation.

This project provides an engaging set of resources; inspirational programmes, lesson plans, worksheets, and related video content from Teachers TV. In addition, there are two competitions for teachers and schools to enter.

<http://www.teachers.tv/tomorrow>

i-board free Easter resources

Steve Rawlins, i-board

<http://www.easter.iboard.co.uk> contains 6 activities suitable for KS1 and early KS2. They are free to use and you can link to them from your Learning Platform.

They are creative, pattern making activities, some themed around Easter. Simply go to the library area of the URL provided and click "Show All Activities".

Note: When you get to the launch screen of an activity it contains a "copy link" button and "download thumbnail" button to support easy creation of lessons in a Learning Platform.

If schools or teachers would like to see all our resources go to <http://www.iboard.co.uk/free> to register for a free trial.

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 – March'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 March 2009

Here are the next four Lessons2go. The Early Years lesson starts us thinking about Easter. The Citizenship lesson is also in preparation for something in the future. This makes use of the Event Elephant event organiser site. Later in the year this will be used for a themed input. It is also worth looking at for use with other school events.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- **Age 3 to 5: Easter Colouring**
This activity gives a chance to introduce and use vocabulary relating to Easter. An online colouring activity is used to provide the stimulus for this. The children initially work in a group, taking turns and listening to the teacher and each other. This is developed into independent work.
- **Age 6 to 7: Geography; Coll Sentences**
This activity supports the topic of 'An Island Home'. It uses photographs of the Isle of Coll, prompting discussion and providing a resource which helps to build sentences. The resource has audio so that the children can learn and use new words in their sentences. The children use words from a word bank to make the sentences.
- **Age 8 to 9: Maths, Geoboard**
This lesson encourages children to experiment with shapes created on a Geoboard. They will examine both the perimeter and area of the shapes created, and then look for a relationship between the area/perimeter and the size of the shape. On the basis of their findings they will need to think how to work out the area and perimeter of a similar shape that is too large to be constructed on the Geoboard.
- **Age 10 to 11: Citizenship, Organising an Event**
This activity makes use of an online event organiser. Event Elephant makes it possible to prepare a small web presence and to send out emails to publicise an event. If the event is free, then use of the facilities is also free. In this activity it is used to support an event which fits in with Citizenship objectives.

Available on 11th March 2009

The next batch of lessons2go is now available. The first and last lessons both have a pets theme. Could the children use the other year group as an audience? With a bit of coordination from their teachers both groups could benefit from this as an incentive. The art and design lesson is perfect for producing a colourful display which can easily be linked to descriptive writing in literacy.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- **Age 5 to 6: English, Pet Lists**
Children will collect information from their own experience, write simple descriptive sentences and create a class display.
- **Age 7 to 8: Art and Design, Cultural Patterns**
Many countries and cultures have traditional patterns that are incorporated into their fabrics and which have special significance. In this activity children will use a graphics program to create a stamp with which they can create a repeating pattern. In this instance Kente cloth will be the focus for the activity, but many other alternatives are suitable. This could be linked with Geography studies.
- **Age 9 to 10: ICT, All About Pets**
This activity makes use of photographs from the 'What Cats Do' folder of Pictopus as a starting point. The children are encouraged to use digital photography to create their own set of matching images. It can also be used to support work on animals.

Available on 18th March 2009

Here are the next four Lessons2go. The first lesson is for all age groups and heralds in the search facility for Pictopus. Now you don't have to worry that you are missing that perfect picture which is hidden in another category. Just use the search tool, but read the lesson and you may be more aware of how thoughtful you should be in your searches to get the best results. It's good for the children too!

These four lessons make up the last week before our two week special on Outdoor Education.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- All ages: Keyword Searching
Children use the Pictopus gallery of photographs to learn how to find information using keywords in a search box.
- Age 6 to 7: PE, Penguin Dances
This activity uses video resources as a stimulus for a penguin dance.
- Age 8 to 9: Science, Identifying Minibeasts
A PowerPoint branching database - ictopus minibeasts - uses clip art pictures from the Pictopus gallery as the basis for a lesson on the identification of different animals found in the local environment. The two files are zipped for your convenience.
- Age 10 to 11: Maths, Eureka
Children use a graphic simulation (Archimedes' Bath) of water filling a bath (with options to have the plug in or out, the tap on or off and/or Archimedes in or out of the bath) in order to investigate the effects of these actions on the depth of bath water at any point of time. The two files are zipped for your convenience.

Available on 25th March 2009

The next batch of lessons2go is now available. This is a bumper batch of brand new lessons on Outdoor Learning. If you have plans to get outside during the summer term make a note of these lessons so that you can cover your ICT objectives in a multitude of ways. Many are cross-curricular in nature and include fun activities. You may want to scan through all of the activities in case the ideas can be adapted for your requirements. Next week there will be another mega batch for Outdoor Learning. I'd like to add a special thank you to those who wrote these new lessons.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 3 to 5: The Car Park
These are a range of activities to help extend the children's knowledge and understanding of the world. They are based around the children making a visit to a local (multi-storey) car park.
- Age 5 to 6: Travelling to School
These are a range of activities to help explore the routes and methods the children use to get to school. They will examine and explain a prepared pictograph (pictogram) of how one class travel to school and will undertake their own class survey. They will mark their own routes to school on a large map and identify what helps or hinders their journeys. These files are zipped for your convenience.
- Age 6 to 7: Shops and Shopping
For many children their main experience of shopping may be at a large supermarket and they may be unaware of what other shops there are in the locality and what they sell. These are a range of activities to help extend the children's knowledge and understanding of the services and amenities available in their local area. These files are zipped for your convenience.
- Age 7 to 8: Creating a Maths Trail
This activity provides ideas for setting up a maths trail in and around the school or local area. An example trail is provided which can be adapted for use in your own school environment. Having followed the example trail or one created by their teacher children are encouraged to create their own maths trails for others to follow. These files are zipped for your convenience.
- Age 8 to 9: People Who Help Us
These activities are designed to be incorporated into a larger project on 'People who help us'. If possible arrange visits, for example, to the local hospital/clinic, the police station, fire station, ambulance station and Royal Mail sorting office. If these are not possible, try to arrange for someone from each to visit the children in school.
- Age 9 to 10: Building Plans and Construction

There may be many areas in the locality of the school where building work is going on. However, children may have very little idea of what is required to take a new building from the planning stage to construction and finishing. These activities aim to rectify this. These files are zipped for your convenience.

- Age 10 to 11: Treasure Hunt
Using a handheld GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver children take turns to have a go at Geocaching in the school grounds. The activity could be adapted for use on a field trip or even for use in a less digital way using paper maps.

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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.

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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**.
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