

e-Update June 2009

Welcome to the 51st 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.

Woodside Junior School runners-up in the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge National Finals!

Andy Dickson – ICT Consultant

Congratulations go to **Woodside Junior School** who were runners-up in the Primary age range at the National Finals of the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2008/9!! They competed against 11 other primary teams in the National Final at the Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon on 25th June. There were also 12 KS3 and 12 KS4 teams in the final. Overall they were 10th in the race (there were only beaten by 1 primary and 8 secondary teams i.e. they beat 10 primary and 16 secondary teams!) which is a very commendable achievement!!

Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2009/10 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, Cambridgeshire Software House, iDesk, Quizdom, Rapid, Alta, Rewards4Schools, Stemnet 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.co.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 2009/10 Challenge is open to any school in either the State or Independent sectors. There are three age ranges in the 2009/10 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 2010. Schools that make it through

the knockout round will meet in April 2010 for the Buckinghamshire Final. The Buckinghamshire primary, KS3 and KS4 winners will then race with other LA winners in the national semi-final knockout round to determine which schools are invited to take part in the National Final in June 2010.

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

Cars: Maths in Motion training for schools

Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant

Where: The Buckinghamshire Teaching & Learning Centre

When: 25th September 2009, 9.30am-12.30pm (registration and coffee from 9.15am)

Session Leaders: Brian & Wendy Richardson. Brian & Wendy are partners in Cambridgeshire Software House and Brian is the co-creator of the Cars: Maths in Motion software.

Who Should Attend: Schools who have purchased or will be purchasing the latest version of Cars: Maths in Motion and are participating in the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2009/10.

What You Can Expect: This hands-on course will show teachers how to use the Cars: Maths in Motion software. There will be discussions on how to use this with children and how the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge works.

Note: The course is **free of charge** to Buckinghamshire LA schools providing that they submit an entry into the Jaguar Cars Maths in Motion Challenge 2009/10. **Schools that do not submit an entry will be subsequently charged for the course at the standard LA rate.**

How to apply: Please complete an application form, which is available from Karen Fagan, ICT Curriculum Support Team, Teaching & Learning Centre, Ellen Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP21 8EF. If you have any queries, please telephone 01296 334994 or email kafagan@buckscc.gov.uk.

Sherston Channels – Free Trial

Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant

The ICT Curriculum Support Team has arranged for a free trial of the Sherston Online Channels for half a term for Buckinghamshire LA schools. The two channels are Gogglebox and Crystal ICT. BLi Education, who own Sherston, describe these:

- *Gogglebox: structured, topic-based content with top quality video footage. Unique Interact section for whole class use and inbuilt pupil ePortfolio.*
- *Crystal ICT: high quality, curriculum mapped content covering key areas of ICT in a stimulating rainforest context. Subscription includes comprehensive classroom guide full of teaching ideas.*
- *Easy to use, no training required.*
- *Ideal for interactive whiteboards.*
- *Will work with your Learning Platform.*
- *Flexible pricing plans to suit your school size.*
- *Full access for all pupils at home is included at no extra charge.*

If you would like a free trial for the second half of the summer term, then email Matt Williams m.williams@taglearning.com **using a school email address**, expressing an interest in the free trial.

Discounted Software

Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant

The ICT Curriculum Support Team has partnership agreements with the BLi Group (TAG, SEMERC, Sherston, Busy Brains and Economatics), 2Simple Software, Softease and Crick Software.

Software from the companies above can be purchased through the ICT Curriculum Support at an amazing **20% discount!!**

The ICT Curriculum Support Team can only supply software to Buckinghamshire LA schools.

To find out the products available and the prices **before** discount, please visit the websites:

BLi Group <http://www.blieducation.com>

SEMERC <http://www.semERC.com>

Busy Brains <http://www.busybrains.com>

2Simple <http://www.2simpleshop.com>

Economatics <http://www.economatics-education.co.uk>

TAG <http://www.taglearning.com>

Sherston <http://www.sherston.com>

Softease <http://www.softease.com>

Crick <http://www.cricksoft.com/uk>

To order software from these companies, please contact Karen Fagan on 01296 334994.

Home Access Awards 2009

e-Learning Foundation

As the significance of ICT and home access continues to grow within education at all levels and for all ages, the e-Learning Foundation has launched the 'Home Access Awards' to recognise those schools that demonstrate excellence in the implementation and development of "Home Access" initiatives.

The e-Learning Foundation Home Access Awards are open to all schools across the country who have instigated successful e-learning projects to provide children with home access to technology for their studies. There are also awards for the most innovative Local Authority, the most supportive supplier and an individual award for the most outstanding personal contribution.

These awards have been designed to recognise and reward excellence in leadership and showcase initiatives and projects which have been set up to provide disadvantaged children across the country with access to technology for use when and where they require it for their studies.

Access to technology at home has been proven to significantly influence educational outcomes, yet there are still hundreds of thousands of children in the UK without home access to a PC and the internet for their studies. The e-Learning Foundation Home Access Awards will spotlight bold innovative thinking in the field of e-learning, whilst underlining the ever present digital divide in this country.

This site <http://www.e-lf.co.uk/awards-09/overview.htm> will give you all the information you need to enter any category (or categories) you wish. Entries must be received in the e-Learning Foundation offices no later than Friday October 9th. Judging will then take place with the shortlisted entries being announced on Friday 23rd October, when finalists will be notified and a complete list will be posted on this site. The awards will then be presented in November at a London venue.

If you have any questions relating to the awards please email awards@e-learningfoundation.com

Film Club for schools

David Little, ICT Co-ordinator, The Disraeli School

Calling all movie buffs!

Ever thought of having your own cinema in your own classroom? Well now you can! Visit <http://www.filmclub.org> and you will be able to register your school and have access to thousands of great movies. The best part is it's free!

All it takes is a room with a data projector DVD player or PC that plays DVDs, decent speakers, blinds, a group of children and a member of staff with a love of movies.

Once registered you will be able order films through the film club website and they will be sent to you through Lovefilm. They will even provide the licence for you to watch movies!

Visit <http://www.filmclub.org> or contact David Liddle at The Disraeli School for more information.

Ictopus – June'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 3rd June 2009

Please pass on lessons to anybody you think will find them useful. The Early Years lesson makes use of the 'order' facility of IWB software. This enables the user to decide which picture stays at the front and which goes behind when they are placed in a pile. If you think you could make use of this technique, have a look at the Early Years lesson.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 3 to 5: Early Years, Positions
This new activity builds up positional vocabulary by using a drag and drop activity. The work is supported with an IWB file. This is intended as an example of what can be produced.
- Age 6 to 7: Citizenship, What Animals Need
This new activity is intended to increase awareness of the needs of the animals we farm. It links with science work on animals, but includes the aspect of our responsibility towards domesticated animals in particular. This makes use of resources from a charity which promotes animal welfare. Although this issue is a complex one without a necessarily simple solution, the children will at least be made aware of their responsibility to care.
- Age 8 to 9: English, Trimming Sentences and Using Powerful Verbs
Children will create short poems based on their own prose writing, giving them terseness by trimming sentences and focusing verbs.
- Age 9-10: Relax and be Entertained, Pirate Speak
This document contains some ideas for developing Pirate Speak to go with the Strictly Come Pirating drama. The links may help with the writing of a 'Pirate Speak' commentary to go with the entertainment. The file has been left as a MS Word document, as some editing will be necessary if the children are to use it.
- Age 10 to 11: Art and Design, Movement
In this series of activities children will explore ways in which they can convey the idea of movement in art with the aid of digital cameras and graphics packages.

Available on 10th June 2009

The next batch of lessons2go is now available. Anybody taking children swimming may wish to look at the resources in the water safety lesson. Also anybody who has yet to use the online mind mapping facility called Text2Mindmaps may want to look at the link in the Water safety activity. Both the maths lesson and the Science lesson have logic links. A set of lessons to get the children thinking!

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 5 to 6: Maths, Colour Patterns
This lesson is about looking for pattern, describing the pattern and being able to answer questions about it. It uses a web-based activity. A worksheet is also supplied. Children may need help reading the questions but the concepts are important ones for them to learn. These files are zipped for your convenience.
- Age 7 to 8: PE, Water Safety

This new activity uses a variety of online resources to introduce the concept of water safety. The children are encouraged to make notes. The teacher then works with the children to use an online mind mapping tool to produce a mind map for display.

- Age 9 to 10: Science, Animal Classification
The teacher will prepare a branching database to identify animals and use it as a focus for a lesson on animal classification. Children will then work in groups to prepare their own branching database keys to classify and identify a set of animals.

Available on 17th June 2009

Here are the next Lessons2go. The history lesson has extra support files and is well worth unzipping. The RE lesson makes use of a 'You Tube' video. For advice on using 'You Tube' videos look at the 'Advice and Help' section on the ictopus website. For a basic online painting facility look at the link in the Early Years lesson.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 3 to 5: Early Years, Garden Painting
This activity combines children going outside and exploring with painting what they have discovered. The painting activity uses a webpage which allows the user to paint and to add small ready drawn images.
- Age 6 to 7: English, Wanted Posters
Children will create a 'wanted' poster of themselves, based on a character in a story.
- Age 8 to 9: RE, A Hindu Aarati
This lesson uses a resource from the Teacher Resource Exchange. It also makes use of the wealth of online video resources. The children listen to a Hindu Aarati, using the authentic sounds and words. They then look at some words in English and focus on those words which demonstrate the religious beliefs.
- Age 10 to 11: History, Evidence of Settlement
In this activity children will use an online database to research the locations of common Viking place names. They will analyse the results and determine which modern place names may be derived from Viking origins. A support file is included.

Available on 24th June 2009

The next batch of lessons2go is now available. In Geography Awareness Week it would only be right to include a geography lesson. The age 7-8 lesson could easily be adapted for use in other year groups. See more about Geography Awareness week on the Worldwise website.

For those schools preparing for Relax and be Entertained there are some super resources amongst the Sparkle Box website resources that could be used to help create a pirate atmosphere. Select 'Topics' then 'Fantasy'. If you have not yet registered for Relax and be Entertained there is still time to send in your details. There will be a prize of an Asus Eee PC for the best MS PowerPoint report sent to ictopus by a registered group by 15th July 2009.

This week they have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 5 to 6: RE, A sign of Belonging
After using digital pictures to introduce the topic children use a word bank to write simple sentences about things which show belonging to a religion. This forms a part of a series of lessons on belonging to a faith. The faith used as an example is Sikhism.
- Age 7 to 8: Geography, Listen to the sounds
This activity gives an opportunity to use a map on a field trip. Whatever the reason for the visit, this mapping activity can be used. A map of the location for the visit is shared and discussed before the visit. Sound recordings are then made at various locations on the day of the visit. The locations where these were made are marked on a map.
- Age 9 to 10: Maths, Counter
This activity is essentially about number sequences. It uses a program called Counter available on the Standards site. A worksheet is provided.

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

To subscribe:

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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.

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>

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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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