

## **e-Update November 2009**

Welcome to the 55th 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.

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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/eupdate>.

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

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### **New easier web address for e-Update**

**Andy Dickson, ICT Consultant**

The e-Update section of the BucksGfL website now has an easier-to-remember web address, <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/eupdate>. This should make it easier for you to go to this section to get hold of the current and past editions of this monthly newsletter. Of course, if you subscribe to e-Update (details on how to do so at the end of this edition) then you will get the latest editions delivered to your BucksGfL email address when they are published.

### **Data Protection - A Summary For Schools**

**Mike Woods, ICT**

A document has been produced that provides guidance on the Data Protection Act and how it relates to Bucks Grid for Learning (BGfL) schools and the BGfL Learning Portal.

The document can be found in section 11 of the [Broadband Project](#) area of the BucksGfL website. A direct link to the document is here: [Data Protection Act - guidance for BLP schools](#)

If you have any queries please contact Mike Woods, County Adviser – ICT [mawood@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mawood@buckscc.gov.uk).

### **Cachepaq 2 Rollout**

**Mike Woods, ICT Adviser**

BucksGfL have embarked on a program with Atomwide to replace all existing Cachepaqs in Buckinghamshire schools with Atomwide's improved CachePaq2 - fully funded by the LA. The CachePaq2 has a Gigabit network connection plus increased processor power, memory and storage capabilities to provide enhanced performance and reliability. These improvements enable the ability to deliver more demanding recent applications such as Espresso Clipbank, plus enhancements to per-user web filtering control and now comes delivered on HP hardware with a 3yr onsite warranty.

To help us with the roll out of these new units, Atomwide will shortly be contacting Headteachers and Nominated Contacts with information on how to arrange a mutually convenient time for the swap out to be carried out by their engineers.

Anyone wishing to contact Atomwide in advance are welcome to do so and should contact Kay Minchington or Tricia Barlow on 0870 236 5000, who are co-ordinating the roll out.

Should a school wish to install their Cachepaq2 using an external support service such as BEMIST, please also contact Atomwide to discuss alternative arrangements.

## **New Primary curriculum from September 2011**

### ***DCSF***

Schools Minister Vernon Coaker has today confirmed plans to bring in a new curriculum to shake-up primary education – with overwhelming support from pupils, parents, teachers and experts. He said that it is time for Government to step back and let schools take more responsibility for their own curriculum.

New legislation introduced today on primary curriculum reform in England will drive up education standards across the board. Vernon Coaker confirmed that evolution will become a compulsory part of science education and that British history will be a key, and permanent, feature of the historical, geographical and social understanding area of learning.

The new legislation is based on recommendations from an independent review of the primary curriculum by Sir Jim Rose, which sought the views of teachers, parents, pupils and subject experts and took over a year to complete. The Government accepted Jim Rose's recommendations in full in April this year.

The reforms included creating six 'Areas of learning' that will shape what children learn from September 2011, the right to learn a foreign language for seven-year-olds, a new focus on speaking and listening, increased expectations of ICT skills, and giving all parents the option to send their child to school in the September after they are four.

Along with the final six areas of learning, the Government today also published the findings of the public consultation, showing overwhelming support – with over 70 per cent of teachers, parents, pupils and education experts saying the new curriculum will provide a sound basis for primary education. The results also showed that seven out of ten people think Jim Rose's proposals will reduce prescription in teaching, and increase flexibility in learning.

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=major\\_reform\\_of\\_curriculum\\_at\\_the\\_heart\\_of\\_a\\_renewed\\_push\\_to\\_drive\\_up\\_standards&type=1](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=major_reform_of_curriculum_at_the_heart_of_a_renewed_push_to_drive_up_standards&type=1)

## **Home Access programme from January 2010**

### ***Becta***

Home Access is the new Government programme which will help to ensure that more children in England have access to technology at home to support learning. Eligible low-income families (eligibility is based on the criteria for free school meals) with learners in Years 3 to 9 will be able to apply for a grant to buy a computer and internet package.

Schools can take an active role in this programme by applying to run an aggregation scheme which involves them ordering packages for families. However, families will be able to apply directly to a central body for their grant, so schools can make a choice as to their level of involvement.

The programme, which is being delivered by Becta, will benefit over 270,000 households, and families should apply from January 2010. Because some learners will need additional support, assistive technology will also be available under the programme.

<http://www.becta.org.uk/homeaccess>

## **2Simple Maths Pack Offer**

### ***Fiona Moore, 2Simple***

2Simple has launched an incredible Maths Pack offer for all the Primary years. This is for a limited time only and will end on 31st December 2009.

This package would normally cost £1,495 + VAT but with this special Maths Pack Offer, you can buy it at just £555 + VAT – that's a huge DISCOUNT!

Get site licences of the following 5 programs:

### ***2Calculate***

With the simplicity of a calculator, yet the power of a spreadsheet, the award winning 2Calculate software is a great way to improve mathematics for children aged 4-12. There are many pre-set activities to explore and the videos will engage and challenge the minds of children in all areas of maths.

### **Maths Games**

Fast paced retro style Maths arcade games set to engage children from their very first click! The high pace of learning will keep them striving to improve. For children aged 6–11.

### **Maths City 1**

In Maths City 1, children aged 4-5 can relate to maths in their everyday lives. Pay for items in the toy shop, count along with playground games, race cars to see who comes first, second and third and much more besides.

### **Maths City 2**

Children aged 4-5 can explore the concepts of space, shape and measure. Make sure the shoe fits in the shoe shop, wrap the presents in the correctly sized boxes and follow the underwater preposition instructions.

### **2Investigate**

This is a highly visual database program for children aged 6-9. Children create their own data cards and then perform various sorts and searches. They can see their cards being moved around the screen and displayed as graphs and Venn diagrams.

To order, please call 020 8203 1781, email [mathsoffer@2simple.com](mailto:mathsoffer@2simple.com) or fax / post back your completed attached order form.

### **Sherston site licence offer**

#### **Sherston**

Sherston currently have a special offer on for schools with a Sherston Software license 'single – 10 user'. They may upgrade that license to a full site license for only £50. (The original license must have been purchased before 1st November 2009).

If you are interested, please contact Matt Williams on 07894 412386 or [m.williams@blieducation.com](mailto:m.williams@blieducation.com)

Note: Other Sherston software can be purchased at 20% discount – see below.

### **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.semenc.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**

### **Harnessing Technology Schools Survey 2009**

#### **Becta**

The Harnessing Technology schools survey is an annual, nationally representative survey intended to assess the uptake and use of ICT in schools across England. It aims both to give a broad overview of the 'state of the nation' of use of ICT in the school sector, and explore, and further clarify, what it means for educational institutions, notably schools, to be 'e-mature'. The focus of the survey is particularly wide, with topics including ICT leadership, infrastructure and impact on learning and teaching.

The 2009 survey, which followed on from the [Harnessing Technology schools survey 2008](#), was conducted on behalf of Becta by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). It employed questionnaires for three target groups (school leaders, ICT co-ordinators and subject teachers) and data collection ran from December 2008 to January 2009.

Key findings:

Developments in infrastructure provision, have been the most successful strand of the Harnessing Technology strategy to date. One area related to infrastructure may need strategic attention, however: use of learning platforms

From the survey findings, it seems that personalising learning as a general concept, and considerations of the specific means of supporting this through the use of new technologies, feature prominently in the thinking of school staff. It is noticeable that two-thirds of teachers either strongly agree or agree that ICT helps them to personalise learning

The surveys provide plenty of evidence of confident school leadership. A large majority of school senior leaders report having written ICT strategies in place, and the priorities identified for the next year suggest that these leaders are very much in touch with current ICT initiatives and policies

A key finding from the 2009 surveys is that the vast majority of teachers are enthusiastic and confident about using ICT for teaching and learning, and that these levels of confidence appear to be increasing year on year

Learners' access to technology is improving, both at school and at home. The learner-computer ratio continues to improve, especially in relation to laptops. Access to computers during the school day but outside lesson times is often readily available to learners, and a reasonable proportion of learners also have remote access.

The report is available to download in [Word](#) (482KB), [PDF](#) (442KB) or [ODT](#) (428KB).  
The technical appendix is also available to download in [Word](#) (202KB), [PDF](#) (94KB) or [ODT](#) (68KB).

URL: [http://partners.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=rh&catcode=\\_re\\_rp\\_02&rid=17153](http://partners.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=rh&catcode=_re_rp_02&rid=17153)

## **Ictopus – November'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 November 2009*

The next batch of lessons2go is now available. Both involve the use of images. The activity for the younger children makes use of a paint package and the fill tool. There is scope for extending the task by using the airbrush tool as well. The MFL activity combines the taking of digital photographs with the use of callouts to create comic-like presentations.

This week we have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 3-5: A Weather Vane and the Fill Tool  
This lesson uses one of many activities in the 'Windy Weather' section of the Weather for Schools website. It makes use of an image of a cockerel which can be filled using the fill tool of a paint package. This lesson gives some ideas for extending this work.
- Age 9-10: MFL, Shopping Comic Strip  
In small groups, the pupils enact short scenes of role-playing shopping, asking for items of food and drink, and purchasing them. Using a digital camera and multimedia authoring software they capture still scenes of the role-play, to which 'speech bubbles', captions or 'callouts' are attached later as in a comic-

strip format. These activities could be easily adapted for German and Spanish language teaching and learning.

Available on 18th November 2009

The next batch of lessons2go is now available. Numbers are integral to both lessons. The maths lesson provides training in how to adopt a strategy for guessing a number. This can be adapted for use by older children too. The history activity uses a spreadsheet to complete an activity on WWII rationing.

This week we have activities for the following age groups:

- Age 6-7: Maths, Guess my Number  
This lesson is about ordering numbers in the context of a game. The children have to guess the number (between 1 and 100) that the computer has selected. Each time they make a guess the range is narrowed down. The number of guesses is recorded. The lesson is in the form of a game where the children have to develop a strategy namely selecting a number that is halfway along the range. This may seem an obvious strategy to adults but children will usually be much slower in grasping this idea.
- Age 8-9: History, Fair Shares For All  
Children will learn about the reasons for, and the impact of, rationing during World War II. They will use a simplified spreadsheet to explore the rations available to different sized households using some simple scenarios that are provided. These files are zipped for your convenience.

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## 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/eupdate>.
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 Administration block on the left, click on **Enrol me in this course**. On the next screen, 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/eupdate>

### To unsubscribe:

1. Visit the BucksGfL website <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/eupdate>.
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 Administration block on the left, click on **Unenrol me from e-Update**. On the next screen, choose **Yes**.

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### Becta

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