

ICT Curriculum Team

# ICT Newsletter



## Summer Heat Wave Special Edition!

### A Visit to Robin Hood School

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#### Remember:

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ICT Curriculum Team

The idea for visiting Robin Hood Primary School in Birmingham came to me as I read an article in the TES Online supplement about a school in Durham that had visited Robin Hood and they felt that they were now using IT innovatively to deliver aspects of the curriculum.

**“Robin Hood Primary School - The School of the Future for the Child of Today”**

I contacted Maria Boex from the GTCW about the idea and we discussed how the new pilot ‘Group Bursaries’ might well suit the project. So, after duly filling out the relevant forms and submitting the application, the GTCW informed me that I did indeed have funding to take myself and two other teachers from Sea View Primary School to Robin Hood Primary. We were also funded for an overnight hotel stay and of course petrol costs.

It is a focus of the school (as I’m sure it is of nearly every

Swansea School) to develop IT, and we have worked closely with Lindsay Harvey and his team to develop an action plan. It is because of this close working relationship that we invited Lindsay to accompany us to Birmingham to get his perspective.

From an IT perspective, the school was exemplary. Year 2 children were showing me PowerPoint presentations they had made on a range of topics. Other infant children were working in pairs on their animations using Apple Macs. Reception children were using metal detectors to search for money in the sandpit and then sort the money into tubs according to their value. Year 1 children were using a Karaoke machine to record their interview with a chicken (a puppet that a child was controlling and answering for). As you moved through the school, the skills of the children progressed and their confidence in talking to you about what they were doing and the



*Pupils at Robin Hood Primary School working in a suite of Apple Macs*

software they were using was remarkable, culminating in a short film that groups of Year 6 children had made about their school. Films that they had edited and added music and special effects to in order to show the school in either a positive or negative light.

The school was by no means perfect, but the positives of the trip far outweigh the negatives and the visit has certainly given me a clearer idea of where I want to take Sea View in terms of its use of IT.

**Damien Beech**  
Deputy Headteacher  
Sea View Primary School

## Free DiDA Resources!

### Diploma in Digital Applications!

Many of you will be aware of the North West Learning Grid website [www.dida-delivered.org](http://www.dida-delivered.org), a highly interactive resource developed to support the DiDA qualification.

The online content is now available to all UK schools free of charge. The resource is divided into four main sections, DiDA Delivered, Students Skills Gym, Teacher Training Materials and 3D Gaming for Units 1 and 4. These resources have been sent out to schools who have registered for the resources as a 4 -disc pack. Disc 4 entitled 'DiDA Delivered in Moodle' contains a series of Moodle course backup files – one for each module.

Although the resources are primarily aimed at supporting DiDA, teachers will find there are many useful resources which can be used to support the delivery of ICT at Key Stages 3 and 4.

If you haven't received a copy of 'DiDA Delivered' you can register your school on the following link <http://www.nwlg.org/projects.htm>.



## Animations and Digital Media

### Current work on animations and digital media in Primary Schools

During the course of the academic year, the ICT Curriculum Team offered training relating to a number of new initiatives. The most popular uptake by primary schools has overwhelmingly been that of animation and digital media. Animations in particular have provided many teachers with an Inset day of real fun. The value of the training has also been reflected highly in schools with many pupils creating exceptional animations. A selection of these may be viewed within the Animation Gallery of the Learn ICT website ([www.learn-ict.org.uk/resources/animation/index.asp](http://www.learn-ict.org.uk/resources/animation/index.asp)). It is important to note that many animations have been produced by Infant children. The animations have varied from clay making to 2-D animations. Many younger pupils have also created graphic animation presentations using the 2animate software. It has been clear that the experiences gained by both teachers and pupils have been regarded as highly valuable. The experiences have pervaded many curricular areas as well as adding a new dimension to the communicating strand of ICT.



It should also be noted that a number of schools have produced their own digital media presentations. As with animations, digital media offers new experiences to teachers and pupils alike. The Revelation Sight and Sound software from Logotron has been used extensively in developing this area. The SA1 project, supported by Howel Davies, has been an outstanding success involving a number of schools that have produced presentations of virtual professional quality. These will be shown at the National Eisteddfod.



As an LEA, we can be proud of the work being done in schools, where the experiences offered in many instances go beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum.

## Definitive Software Library Online!

<http://www.learn-ict.org.uk/materials/dsl/index.htm>

The Definitive Software Library (DSL) is a list of supported software titles for Swansea Schools. The titles were published in the Spring Edition of the ICT Curriculum Team's Newsletter.

Following a meeting of the CL@SS Group, it was suggested that further details were required for each title, describing the intended purpose of each title as well as the age range. This has now been completed for the Recommended Software List. Details for the Essential Software List will be completed in due course.

The web page providing the details (URL above) was created using a pre-release of the Spry framework from Adobe Labs. To quote Adobe:

*The Spry framework is a preview of the data capabilities that enable designers to incorporate XML data into their HTML documents using HTML, CSS, and a minimal amount of JavaScript, without the need for refreshing the entire page. The Spry framework is HTML-centric, and easy to implement for users with basic knowledge of HTML, CSS and JavaScript. The framework was designed such that the markup is simple and the JavaScript is minimal. The Spry framework can be used by anyone who is authoring for the web in their tool of choice.*

One of the benefits of using Spry, is that the data can be manipulated without having to refresh the page. If you click on the *Product* and *Category* headings, the data will be sorted A-Z and Z-A each time you click. If you have any comments about this page, please forward them to John Mills ([john.mills@swansea-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:john.mills@swansea-edunet.gov.uk)).

Definitive Software Library	
RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE LIST	
Product	Category
Textease Studio+ / CT	Office / Multimedia
Maths Pack 1-4	Maths / Numeracy
Primary Maths Games	Maths / Numeracy
Adobe Dreamweaver	Web Design
Splash	Art
My Modelling Toolkit	Modelling
Zoombinis (3 Versions)	Maths / Adventure
Virtual Experiments	Science / Simulation
Izzy's Island	Adventure / Simulation
Crystal Rainforest	Adventure / Simulation
Map Detectives	Adventure / Simulation
Black Cat Compose	Music
2Create	Animation
2 Create a Story	Animation
Teaching Maths Series	Maths / Numeracy
Final NotePad	Music
Little Brown Bear Series	Adventure / Simulation
Dazzle 1, 2 and 3	Art
Adobe Fireworks 8	Web Publishing
Print Music	Music
Adobe Flash 8 Professional	Web Design

## Video Conferencing Works!

### Conferencing between Bishop Gore and Grange Primary School

An interesting 'link up' occurred between Bishop Gore and one of its partner primaries.

Having taken delivery of new video-conferencing equipment late in the summer term, Bishop Gore School quickly arranged a session with Grange Primary School to sample the use of VC on the county broad band. The appropriate connections had been hurriedly set up by the technical team to accommodate the trial session with the primary school.

Y5 pupils visiting from primary schools in Swansea joined with some year 7 and year 10 pupils gathered in the VC suite for a question and answer session. In Grange Primary School, ICT Co-ordinator Mr Geoff Davies had arranged a group of Y5 and Y6 pupils with some active class-room displays. During the session, pupils were able to get an insight into the classes, lessons and routines at each school.

There was an interesting exchange of ideas on science: Grange providing a live demo of their solar system model and information on their planets database which is part of their school web site. The older pupils posed some interesting mathematical puzzles which were displayed on the interactive whiteboard in the primary classroom.

Despite the relatively short distance - the link demonstrated the quality of the new equipment which can now be used world wide.



## ICT Scheme of Work

### Bilingual Resources to support the ICT Scheme of Work

The ICT scheme of work has now been populated with resources, both in Welsh and English and we are currently in the process of translating the scheme of work into Welsh. This is to be completed by the end of the term and will be made available to you from the Learn ICT website during the summer holidays ([www.learn-ict.org.uk/sow/index.asp](http://www.learn-ict.org.uk/sow/index.asp)).

It is planned that at the end of October we will begin producing mini video clips to accompany the resources in the scheme of work. The clips will be used to demonstrate good practice of using the resources.

In other news, the development of Welsh resources will begin over the summer holidays. We hope to build a large bank of interactive resources. Any donations of work are welcome!



## Every Picture Tells a Story

### A responsive, flexible and reflective curriculum

Today's young learners require a curriculum which is responsive, flexible and reflective of their world, digital imagery, more than anything, has encouraged and enabled ICT to support learning and develop confidence across all areas of the curriculum. The Interactive Whiteboard's larger screen facilitates large group viewing and interaction as well as providing a tool for collaborative learning. Photo displays, together with short movies and slideshows, enable children, staff and parents to talk about and share experiences and develop good practice about children's learning, creating better home-school links because it is so easy to share events as they happen.

Images can help pupils retell events and encourages them to talk about their experiences with adults and peers. Children can routinely take photographs of their construction models, current interests, art work, science investigations, school trips, concerts, visitors and the local environment. They can use images taken from the web to create slideshows supporting historical topics whilst developing literacy skills and can even make short animations.

Schools are beginning to create CD's for pupils to take home images, slideshows, movies and animations to share with their families and some schools have even created CDs for their Year 6 pupils as a record of their experiences in school. I've even seen in an Early Years setting a 'Guess Who' album filled with out-of-focus and/or accidentally cropped 'body parts' photos – the children are very good at guessing what the photo represents!



## Key Skills Resource Disk

### Case Studies of Key Skills and Associated Documentation

Schools will have now received a copy of the draft version of the *Key Skills Resource Disk*.

As the disk has been prepared in MS PowerPoint format, some schools may not currently have the facility to view the presentation. If you do not have MS PowerPoint installed on your computer, you will need to download and install the free PowerPoint Viewer. This can be obtained from the [Microsoft Website](http://Microsoft Website) or from the Learn ICT Website in the [Essential Updates](#) area.

Should you experience any technical difficulties regarding the disk, do not hesitate to contact a member of the ICT Curriculum Team.

