NEWSLETTER

The termly newsletter for primary school and academy managers and all classroom based staff

issue 34 – spring 2015

This newsletter contains links and is best read electronically. You'll find it at herefordshirecomputing.com

A new website and name

We've rebranded. The change in subject from ICT to computing is reflected in our new name. More importantly we've also launched a new website: herefordshirecomputing.com. This is still developing but we'll be moving all resources across from the VLE soon. You'll already find quite a lot there. You will need a password to gain access to several "protected" pages, this has been emailed to coordinators and school admin accounts, please shout if you don't have it.

Herefordshire Computing Support
Learning and Achievement Service

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Teaching Programming course from Future Learn / UEA

There's really no shortage of sources of help for teachers with coding; so here's another one for you! If you fancy a bit of directed support, FutureLearn have created a two part course (a MOOK) on teaching computing aimed at teachers in primary and secondary. It's free and it looks good. Here's an overview on YouTube. If you fancy trying it out, part one is here, and part two. Both parts have run their course now but should run again soon, you can go to the site and register your interest. This has been brought to our attention by the people behind the new University for Herefordshire

Ten Pieces film project

If you haven't yet discovered it, the BBC's *Ten Pieces* project is worth a look. It centres around ten pieces of classical music that they feel every primary aged pupil should know. There are substantial resources on the BBC site to support teachers in achieving this goal. The aim is that schools engaging with the project should work towards a "creative outcome" and they are particularly keen to see digital art, musical composition and dance.

In Herefordshire we've made this the theme for this year's film project and we have fifteen schools signed up to the project. They will be making a film inspired by one or more of the pieces which will be showcased at a film premiere event at the new Hereford Odeon on 1st July. We'll be supporting schools through the process with workshops and in-school support. We're just about to start this but there's still time to get on board. More information on our website and just let us know if you want to join the project.

Computing coordinators' conference – Wednesday 11th February, 13:00 - Kindle Centre

On the agenda this time:

• A brief look at **assessment of computing** - it's a bit early to get deeply into this but it will be helpful to have a look at some possible approaches.

• **Pupil blogging** - a concept gaining traction in primary education with a proven record for raising attainment in and motivation for writing. We'll look at one particularly good practical solution and give you a bit of time to set yourself up ready to get going in the classroom. This then leads nicely on to ...

• **Social media for school promotion / communication** - specifically using Facebook and Twitter to promote your school (adult use of course). Really powerful stuff! This section of the conference will be led by a couple of schools that have made big strides I this direction: Andrew Teale from St Paul's and Jo Brace from HMFA.

As usual, this session is FREE OF CHARGE and all a part of the service for all SLA schools, otherwise £65. We look forward to seeing you. Just contact us to book your place or look on CPD Online.

LEGO WeDo training at Wellington

There is a requirement in both the D&T and computing curricular that at KS2 children are given the opportunity to program models they have made. This is one of the most difficult areas for schools to address. One really great way is to use LEGO's relatively new product WeDo. To help you on your way Wellington Academy is hosting a FREE training event (by LEGO) on Tuesday 3rd February at 4.00 p.m. This should be a great event and if you'd like to come there are still places. Please just email the school. More detail here. One of the great advantages of WeDo is that you can program it using Scratch (rather than buying their own quite expensive software – though you may not learn that from LEGO's training session!) We have a class set (15 sets) of this kit that you can borrow for use in your school. We will also be happy to come and support it for you in the classroom. See our website for more detail of this and other loan equipment.

A few bits of kit looking for a new home

St Joseph's RC Primary in Ross-on-Wye have a couple of SMART tables they no longer need. These are slightly old technology now and it has to be said can be a little tricky to keep going. The rewards are good though. Imagine 6 children being able to interact on a giant iPad, the dedicated software forces them to make joint decisions. Ideal for EYFS and KS1. Please contact the school if you'd like one. (The children are not included in the offer!)
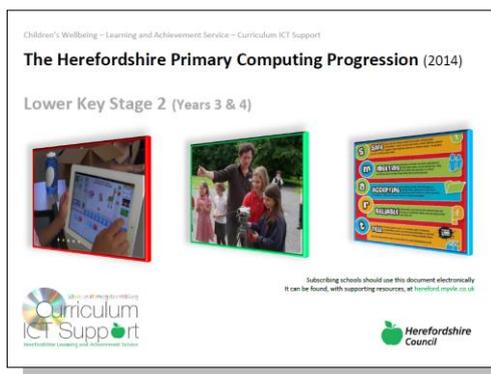
Weston-under-Penyard CE Primary have a pretty recent Promethean 78" whiteboard to rehome. It's been taken down because it's no longer needed. There is no projector.

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 10th February 2015

The second Tuesday in February each year is Safer Internet Day. On this day, and those around and about it, there will be much e-safety activity taking place in schools. You can find a host of ideas about what you might get up to in your school by visiting the UK Safer Internet Centre. Here is their latest newsletter with some suggestions to get you going.

How are you getting on with the new computing curriculum?

Having been presented with the task of introducing an entirely new curriculum in September you can be forgiven for not having given the subject of computing quite the attention it needs. Indeed, there has been a good deal of comment nationally on how well primary schools are embracing the new subject and in particular the computer science strand and of the extent to which they have the capacity to do so.

If you've not yet got started (also of course if you have) we're here to help. We think you will find the new Herefordshire Computing Progression materials a really useful resource. It goes further than the old ICT Progression by signposting readymade lessons and resources that are freely available on the internet for teachers to use as well as providing guidance on the programme of study, a series of progression statements for each strand and some early help on assessment of computing (though there is still a journey to travel here!). There is also the usual range of supporting templates and resources for planning and resourcing of computing in your school

These materials are part of our on-going commitment and support to schools and academies buying into our service level agreement. They can be found at herefordshirecomputing.com (you will need your school's password). If your school does not buy our support through our SLA you can buy into these materials for a one off payment of £300 (including the introductory staff meeting).

There's a lot to get to grips with and to start that process we'd love to come in and work with you in a staff meeting to give you an overview of how the materials work and to start the process of embedding it properly in your school. Please contact us to arrange that.

Contact details - we are:

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