

How are you getting on with the new computing curriculum?



Having been presented with the task of introducing an entirely new curriculum from last 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 this. But now that the dust is settling on other aspects of the curriculum it might be a good time to focus a bit on Computing and of course we're here to help. If you haven't already found it, we think you will find the [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. 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). Please [contact us](#) to arrange support.

Are your iPad app purchases safe?

Many schools are managing sets of iPads using a MacBook and Apple's free application Apple Configurator. It is most important that this MacBook is backed up properly. If configurator data is lost from the MacBook for any reason, such as the machine failing, it can mean that all purchases are lost and need to be purchased again (potentially hugely costly). [More information here.](#)



Coding – going beyond Scratch – try Kodu and WeDo



If you have made a start on the computer science strand you are probably finding your way around [Scratch](#), indeed this is probably the best place to start. If you're looking for other options though (and a diet of nothing but Scratch becomes a bit tedious) then perhaps a good place to look next might be Microsoft's free offering, [Kodu](#).

Kodu is particularly appropriate for KS2. It's a different approach from Scratch. Essentially there are two parts to it: the creation of your "world" and then the addition and programming of any number of objects to move around your world. Children take to this like ducks to water because it's rather like Minecraft (and of course you get instant credibility points for introducing it to the classroom). Kodu is great for links to Literacy because of a strong narrative flavour that worlds and games can bring. Kodu is more difficult to get your head around than Scratch and if you'd like to get going with it perhaps the best thing is to invite us in to give you and your children a starter lesson. We'll also be running some courses later in the year. You do need a decent computer to run the program and it is far easier to use with a mouse than a laptop glide pad.



Then, of course there is that bit of the computer science strand that requires children to be "controlling physical systems" this opens up a range of exciting possibilities, perhaps the easiest and most enjoyable one being LEGO WeDo. This is quite expensive but we have two class sets of it (15 sets in each so children can work in pairs) and we'll be pleased to bring one of them to you and spend half a day with

you and your children to get you started then leave the kit with you for a few weeks. Please just [contact us](#) to arrange that.

New toy: 3D printing

We've bought a couple of new toys over the summer break. One of them is a 3D printer. This is now available for schools to borrow to engage in short 3D printing projects. [Please let us know](#) if you'd like to have a go. We'll bring it out to you and get you started on a project or two with your children then leave it with you. 3D printing is still in its infancy in schools, especially in primary but there is a big "wow" factor and a growing range of [apps and software](#) that is user friendly for children. The "wow" factor is good too!



SumDog – maths resources and contests



Sumdog is a hugely popular maths resource, not least because of the free contests they run from time to time. Congratulations particularly to Holmer CE Academy, The Aconbury Centre and St Weonard's Primary who feature in the top 3 lists for last summer. Full details of winners [here](#). You can sign up to take part any time by visiting [their website](#) and of course there are many resources there that you can use free of charge any time.

Teaching Computing Course - UEA



We mentioned this free online course in this newsletter some while ago; unfortunately we got to hear about it too late and had missed the start date. It's running again from 14th September so now's your [opportunity to enrol](#). This free online course is provided by The University of East Anglia and aims to prepare teachers to deliver the new computing curriculum effectively in years 5, 6, 7 and 8.

It will consist of a variety of videos, articles and downloadable materials for you to use in your classrooms. Join me there!

Prevent Strategy



You will no doubt be aware that from July 2015 a new duty has been placed on schools to have regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The duty relates to provisions in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This is clearly a broad safeguarding issue and has implications for e-safety and those involved in technology. The Home Office has published [guidance](#) on what this means for schools and other providers. The Department for Education has set up a helpline for teachers who have questions and / or concerns about extremism.

Teachers can call: **0207 340 7264** or email: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

Espresso Home access

Several schools have been in touch to say that they have had some issues with home access to Espresso. Discovery Education assures us that all Herefordshire schools should now be using the same system. If you are having difficulty accessing Espresso at home will need to contact the school's admin contact for Espresso and request that your school email account is added to the system. After setting your password you then login at discoveryeducation.co.uk If you still have no joy it will be worth being [in touch with Discovery](#)

Scratch Jr for Android



If you've been using Scratch Junior on iPads you may be pleased to know that it is now available for Android tablets too – if only for children's use at home. If you've not been using it and you have some iPads available to KS1 it's well worth a look. It's an excellent app and is very well supported by a [website](#) with many classroom resources, lesson plans etc. You may be even more pleased to know that it will be available in a web browser soon.

Parents' Zone materials for school sites – Parent Info



Parent Info provides high quality information to parents and carers about their children's wellbeing and resilience.

Schools can now host the content on their own website and use it in any other ways (in letters to parents etc) that they want. Parent Info is a collaboration between [The Parent Zone](#), which has been providing information and support to parents for a decade, and [CEOP](#), the Child Exploitation and Online Protection command of the National Crime Agency. This service is free and ranges across a wide range of subject matter. Schools can [register for Parent Info](#) or learn more [here](#).

Forgotten Herefordshire media project 2016



This year's film project – to run during the spring and summer terms will focus on Herefordshire's ruins. We'll be extending this to a media project and looking at a variety of ways to share the outcomes with a range of audiences. As in recent years it will be based around tablet technology. We'll be making use of Google Apps for Education in this year's project – a fantastic free offering to schools. We'd like you to focus on a ruin and think about how that could be used to inspire

learning across the curriculum. More information will be sent out to school soon. We will once again bring the project to a close with the mega event at the Odeon.

Ten Pieces film project 2015

This year's film project – *Ten Pieces* – was a huge success. We had more schools than ever taking part, they created a [fantastic range of original films](#) and the culmination of the project was the film premiere at the Hereford Odeon – the first one in the new one which made it even more special. The fantastic [BBC initiative *Ten Pieces*](#) made it even more special and so many teachers commented on how engaged the



children were with the ten pieces of classical music that the BBC packaged with some high quality resources and teaching plans. If you haven't [checked out this resource](#) yet, you still can and it's well worth it. [Ten Pieces II](#) (KS3) has just been launched and that's worth a look too, certainly for upper KS2. Herefordshire gets a mention in their [summer newsletter](#).

Autumn term training and events

iPad Focus Group – Date to be confirmed – Holmer CE Academy – no agenda for these meetings just come along and contribute what's been going on with you and listen to experiences from others.

E-Safety Update briefing - Monday 5th October, 09:30 – 11:30 – Holmer CE Academy – This is provided jointly by the UK Safer Internet Centre and the e-safety team from the South West Grid for Learning. These are excellent sessions, we couldn't get them to Herefordshire last year but quite a large number of schools were represented two years ago and space is limited so please book a place if you'd like to come at www.esafetylive.com

The Herefordshire School Leadership Conference - Friday 9th October, all day - Whitecross. Last year's event was really well received and this one is following a similar format. There will be ICT input into this in a variety of ways. Booking and details via [Hereteach](#) website soon.

Primary Computing Coordinators' Autumn Conference – Wednesday 21st October, 13:00 – 16:00 – Venue and content to be agreed. To book a place just email msanderson@herefordshire.gov.uk

Albion iPad Conference – 10th or 11th November (TBC) – **Puckrup Hall** -. This event will focus on continuing the journey and vision for iPads with a particular look at work flow - getting files backwards and forwards between teachers and pupils, "marking" children's work and moving towards a paperless classroom and any time anywhere learning. Booking site to follow.

School Websites by DragonFly Website Design

Finally, you may remember Mike Truelove from his Hoople days. He's now running his own website design business and offering a service to schools. Check out his [website](#) for more information.

Contact details - we are:

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