

NEW - Herefordshire Digital Leaders Academy

Several schools have already setup small groups of pupils at the top of KS2 to act as digital leaders (here's the recently appointed and proud team at St Francis Xavier's RC Primary). This works particularly well for iPad support around the school, but doesn't need to be restricted to that. The idea is that the children are trained to help other children and teachers with all things digital.

We're setting up a network of digital leaders in schools around Herefordshire. Support will come in a number of ways including:



- Publication of a set of resources to support you with recruiting and training your team
- Provide you with badges for your digital leaders
- An induction day between now and the end of term
- Termly *Herefordshire Digital Leader Academy* conferences for children (regionally around the county) where we'll have a clear training focus for each session
- A blog for exchanging ideas / request for support

There's more background [on our website](#): If you think you'd like to be involved (no commitment) please [express your interest here](#) and we'll keep you informed about events. If you'd like to come and hear more about the idea, you are invited to one of two tea parties (for staff – there'll be nice cake):

- St Francis Xavier's RC Primary School – Tuesday 14th June, 4.15 – 5.00
- Walford Primary School – Thursday 23rd June, 4.15 – 5.00

Resources for you to use in school (free of charge for most schools)

One of our popular services to schools is the library of loan kit that spends its time out in schools. These are available for you to borrow free of charge (if your school buys into our SLA - and at cost if you don't). You'll find much more detail on what's available on the [Resources drop down menu on our website](#), but here's a few of them:

LEGO WeDo and WeDo 2.0 – Hugely popular, these sets are in constant use. Each class set consists of 15 individual kits so that children can work in pairs on projects. Again we'll bring the kit to you, get you up and running then leave it all with you for three weeks. This is a great way to enhance the coding aspects of computing. There's more about WeDo 2.0 (the new kid on the block) below and [here](#).



3D Printing - 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](#) for primary schools. A couple of ideas that have proved popular centre around the creation of small built environments using an the app [Blokify](#) (very much like Minecraft) and a design your own mythical character using [Thing Maker](#). We'll bring it out to you and get you started on a project then leave it with you. Much more [on our website](#)



LEGO Story Starter – Used correctly this is a powerful writing tool aimed at KS1 and lower KS2. It's also used as an easy way into animation across the primary phase. More [here](#) from LEGO



iPads - originally purchased for schools to get a taster for iPads (most schools tasted and have bought their own) but these are still in full use to supplement schools' own iPad sets for bigger, special projects.

Green Screens – We've bought more and more of these because it's so popular – a whole range of contexts and so easy to use and a great motivator for writing for children.

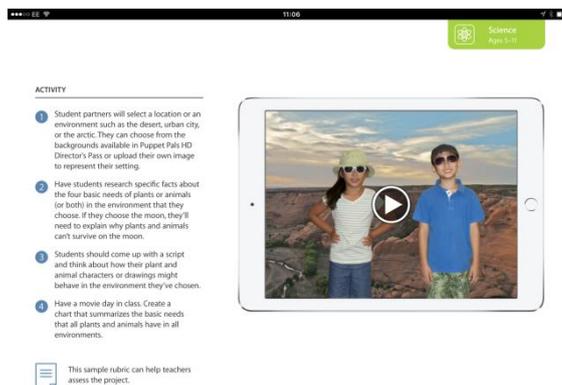
Trust Me – A new digital literacy resource from Childnet

Childnet has created a new, quality resource which is designed to support teachers in exploring critical thinking online. [Trust Me](#) has been created with teachers in mind after hearing from schools that they wanted a resource which would start the conversations around extremism and extreme online content. Included in the resource are full teaching plans and associated resources – well worth a look!



Apple iBooks for teachers

If you haven't visited the book store lately in iTunes or iBooks then it's worth taking a look at what's available for teachers (for free). A recent addition is a growing range of short books entitled *Apps in the Classroom*. Each book takes a popular app and provides a wealth of lesson ideas to help you embed that app across the curriculum. The series will help you to get new life out of so many apps that you may have used once or twice and then moved on. I was particularly impressed by the suggestions for using Puppet Pals (widely considered an app for early years) at KS3. The best way to find them is to go to iBooks on your iPad then Featured – Categories – Education. While you're there, you might like to look at a slightly older series called *One Best Thing*.



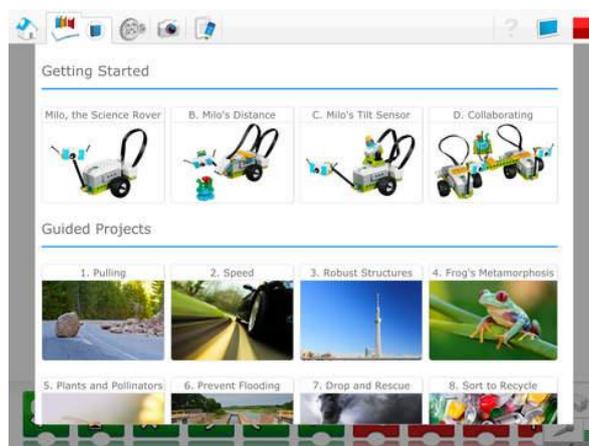
LEGO WeDo 2.0



[Another great resource from LEGO](#), launched at the beginning of the year. This one builds on the success of [WeDo](#) and takes the concept to the iPad (also works on PCs if you have Windows 8 or above). Children build a range of models which then connect to the iPad via

Bluetooth. This means no restricting cables so they can design and programme robots that can move anywhere. The whole thing is powered by a free app (beware it's a whopping 1.2GB and so will eat up a lot of your storage!)

Four short starter projects will get you started (based around making a space explorer robot called Milo, adding distance sensors and tilt sensors). Then there are eight guided projects and eight open projects, each of which takes several lessons to complete and links beautifully to the Science curriculum. Also built into the software is a documentation tool that allows the children to capture images and video of their experiments to record their predictions and findings. It's worth downloading the app which will give you a very good idea of what the resource is all about.



Better still, [book me](#) to come in with 15 sets for you to borrow with your class. I'll spend half a day with you so that you'll know where you're going with it. Unfortunately the [full class set](#) costs in the region of £1600 – all the more reason to make use of the set we've bought!

Herefordshire life through a lens – film project 2016/17

Here's your chance to get involved with this exciting project running in the spring and summer of 2017 –

[Register your interest here](#)



Rick and Julia Goldsmith (Catcher Media) are in the process of securing funding (we hope) for a big media project that will run for the next three years and I'm delighted that they've asked for some help from Herefordshire primary schools with a major project entitled "[Herefordshire life through a lens](#)"

The project centres on the work of the photographer Derek Evans who was working in Hereford between the 1950s and 1980s. His extensive archive gives a unique insight in local life in the 20th Century. You can read a lot more about the project on the [dedicated website](#). We are particularly looking for schools wishing to focus on the main themes of:

- Hop picking (or agriculture in a wider sense)
- The Mayfair (Hereford's and more local fairs / flower festivals)
- Social history around Derek Evans' Hereford studio (1950 – 1980) and photography in general
- Hereford football Club
- Fownhope Heart of Oak celebrations (or other local rural traditions)
- Or any theme of your own from the selection of Derek Evan's photos e.g. changes in their local environment, Hereford life, mining, market sellers, musicians.

We plan to link this project into our own film project next year (spring and summer terms 2017) and beyond. There is also a plan to form an education support pack resource writing group. Funding will be available to release people for this. If you have anyone who might like to be involved we'd also like to hear from you.

Ten More film project 2016



Meanwhile, **this** year's film project – [Ten More](#) – is reaching its exciting conclusion, films are frantically being completed (I hope) and the 17 schools taking part will descend on the Odeon in Hereford for the official premiere of their films on 8th July. This project (as last year's) is based on the fantastic [BBC initiative Ten Pieces](#) If you haven't [checked out this resource](#) yet, you still can and it's well worth it. This year's excellent crop of films will appear on our website in July.

Summer Term Coordinators' Conference

Wednesday 29th June, 13:00 – 15:30 – Holmer CE Academy. (Please note the date which is a week later than the one originally advertised). [Book your place here](#). Key items on the agenda will be:

- **Seesaw** – an excellent digital portfolio building platform (FREE) that's going down very well in schools
- **LEGO WeDo 2.0** – hands on computer science, D&T and science
- **ActivExpression** – remember those? They're probably in the cupboard but there are some new resources and new uses for them that we'd like to show you, especially for self-paced question sets
- Update and discussion on **topical issues**

And finally! - SEGfL Bird Box Project



A pair of blackbirds has built a nest right next to a corridor window at Holmer. The children have loved watching progress. Jayne Maund wanted to share the joy more widely and we eventually found the South East Grid for Learning's [Bird Box Project](#). We setup a webcam connected to a computer, registered for the project (free for any school) [and the result is here](#). Ahh, sweet! Sorry if it's an empty nest; you should rush to this newsletter more quickly in future!

Contact details – Herefordshire Computing Support is:



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