

Welcome back and to a new computing newsletter. There's a bit of a Literacy theme this term as you'll see from several of the items below. Please don't miss the exciting series of courses for all year groups that Stephanie Austwick and I are running through October and November. We look forward to seeing you!

Autumn Term Computing & Literacy Coordinators' Conference



This one will be a little different from normal. [Steph Austwick](#) is going to join us and the conference will be aimed at both **Computing and Literacy coordinators**. We will give you plenty of ideas about how to combine the two to good effect as well as the usual updates, for each subject. It will take place on **Thursday 22nd September, 13:00 – 15:30** (venue to be confirmed).

We'll be focusing on the seven "Springing off the Page" courses that Steph and I are running jointly through October and November (see below). The Book focus for this free taster session will be [The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore](#) with plenty of ideas about how to develop literacy skills to good effect and the computing focus will be on augmented reality apps. Please bring along your Literacy coordinator. This session is FREE OF CHARGE for all schools. Booking for the **Coordinators' Conference** [is here](#)

Springing off the page – Year group specific Literacy and Computing courses

Another joint venture with Steph Austwick. A series of 7 courses (Reception to Y6) running through the autumn term for non-computing / Literacy specialists. The main focus is on exciting learning activities relating to a picture book (which you will be given to keep). Along the way we'll also look at some exciting and purposeful uses of tablet technology to motivate and extend learning. Steph has already delivered a non-computing version of these sessions from Ledbury last year – the training was popular and well received. Dates, details and booking are all [here](#).



NEW - Herefordshire Digital Leaders Academy



We're setting up a network of digital leaders in schools around Herefordshire. I wrote about this [in the last newsletter](#). We didn't get the scheme up and running last term so there's still time to [sign up](#). The idea is to empower your pupils at the top of KS2 who show a natural ability with digital technology to help to support and promote its use across the school in a variety of ways. We will provide termly training sessions (whole day) for your children to attend and provide you with the resources and backup you will need to run the scheme effectively in school. 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.

I'm still in the process of arranging venues for session in October in Hereford, as well as in the north and south of the county. The focus for this first round of training will be on the job of a digital leader, the skills needed to be one and how to make yourself welcome in another teacher's classroom. A regular feature of each session will be a bit of technical training to empower the children to be able to assist with minor technical issues. The main core of the day will be a focus on key apps and techniques to help support Literacy across the two key stages. (A bit of a theme this term – see below)

E-Safety resources and support

An item from Jo Davidson in "Spotlight on Children" this week: **Helping children and young people stay safe on and offline** - *The Children's Commissioner has advised us of two free important programmes, which are designed to help professionals keep pace with and protect children from risk both on and offline. To find out more about the Thinkuknow and Parent Info programmes, please read a [letter from the Children's Commissioner](#).*



You will no doubt already be very familiar with CEOP's *Think-u-know* resources (if you're looking for alternatives I updated the Digital Literacy sections of the [Herefordshire Computing](#)

[Progression resources](#) over the summer). I made reference to the other resource mentioned in the Children's Commissioner's letter, the *Parent Info* feed for school websites, in a past newsletter. You can see the type of feed that you can activate on your own school website (easily and at no cost) behind the obvious button at [www.herefordshirecomputing.com](#).



A resource related to Parent Info is Parent Zone's *Digital Schools*. This is a paid for service (normally £300) but we have negotiated a 20% discount for Herefordshire Schools (you need to register before 7 November).

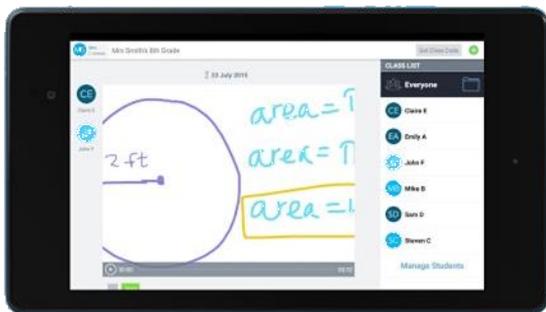
Digital Schools membership will help you meet your Ofsted and ISI requirements for engaging with parents on online safety by providing you

with robust policies, expert information and resources, and a dedicated email service to answer parents' queries as well as an online parenting programme. To sign up, please [click here](#) and use the code DSM01 when ordering. For further information please contact yasmin@parentzone.org.uk.

Parent Zone is one of the partners behind the excellent Vodafone e-safety magazine for parents. Edition 5 of this is due out very soon and schools are able to [order printed copies](#), free of charge. It's worth signing up to their mailing list which you can do on [their website](#).



Seesaw and Class DoJo – classroom management, work flow and sharing



I know I might be starting to sound rather like a broken record, but if you have access to tablets in your classroom and you've not yet experienced what Seesaw has to offer then you should. It provides (for free) the most wonderful and straight forward set of tools for children to share their work around the classroom, with parents and with the world if you wish. This brings a whole load of benefits in terms of extended audience

and purpose, peer assessment, very real e-safety messages and not least a really easy way to keep evidence of pupil's digital work. Seesaw have been running an excellent set of webinars over the summer entitled [PD in you PJs](#). The program is continuing into September and it's well worth a look. They have also produced a [2 week programme](#) to help get people into using Seesaw properly. Seesaw offers a comprehensive range of features available completely for free with a range of premium (and very useful) extras as part of the paid for service. If you fancy trying it out please [get me to come in](#) for half a day and I'll start you and your children off.



Another resource that's well worth a look, and highly recommended by most teachers that have tried it, is Class DoJo. The strength of this one is in rewarding behaviour and attitudes in the classroom. The real secret comes by virtue of the fact that children's achievements can be shared in real time with their parents. The platform also includes the facility to capture and share learning episodes and outcomes with parents but not as comprehensively as Seesaw (above). Well worth a look – it's easy to get up and running.

Computer Science - teaching resources

How's it going? It's now two years since the new Computing curriculum came into place and with it the requirement for all children to be learning Computer Science. My perception is (across the country) that it's patchy. Don't forget that we are here to help so if you still haven't really grasped what computational thinking, variables ... are then we can help you (with your children if that's the easiest way to do it).



One resource you may have looked at two years ago is the **Barefoot site from CAS** (Computing at School) www.barefootcas.org.uk. If you've not looked lately you will be impressed at how it has grown. It is the key site that the government put its weight behind and there is a lot there to draw on.

Another set of resources I've recommended a great deal are those from Phil Bagge, www.code-it.co.uk. That site has had a makeover and the content has expanded. It remains excellent. And of course, the Herefordshire Computing Progression (www.herefordshirecomputing.com/computing-progression-downloads) helps to tie it all together with a load of supporting planning resources.

There was feature on **LEGO WeDo 2.0 in the last newsletter**.

Don't forget that we have whole class sets of WeDo and WeDo 2.0 for you to borrow. This is a really exciting way to deliver computer science and it's best to get in with a request now

rather than wait until the summer term when everyone wants it! I'll bring the kit out to you and spend half a day working with you so that you will be confident to carry on when we leave the kit with you.



And then of course, there's the learning about *computers and networks* bit of computer science that no one much is addressing. More on that in the future ...

Sets of Activote - free to a good home

Hereford Cathedral Junior School has passed to me 3 x32 sets of Promethean Activote. These are the old style voting devices illustrated, but they are still useful pieces of kit. If you'd like one or more of them please [just let me know](#). As ever, I will be very happy to come and spend some time with you and your class to show you how you can use them.



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