Herefordshire Digital Leaders Programme

The autumn term launch of the Herefordshire Digital Leaders programme was a great success. The conferences involved 110 children across 14 schools at the 4 full day pupil conferences in 4 different venues across the county. I've had comments from so many schools about how enthusiastic their digital leaders are and how they are already having an impact on computing in school. I keep bumping into digital leaders across the county wanting to update me on what they are doing in their school.

You can get a bit of a flavour of what has gone on so far by glancing at the children's blog. In particular you might like to read some of the children's comments about the day.

Dates for the spring term conference days are now confirmed and you can book places here, dates are:

- Monday 20th February - Wellington Primary School

- Wednesday 22nd February - Ashfield Park Primary School

- Tuesday 28th February - Luston Primary School

- Monday 6th March - Hampton Dene Primary School, Hereford

The focus for this term's pupil conferences will be Seesaw; children will be fully immersed in the management of this so that they can return to school well placed to assist teachers in setting up and using this great tool in the classroom. New schools are welcome to attend this time round and I hope there will be a large number of returning schools from last term; more sessions will be organised as necessary. There is a good deal more about Digital Leaders on my website. Please contact me if you need to know more.

herefordshirecomputing.com

New E-Safety resources

Play Like Share: Keeping 8-10s safe online is a new set of resources from CEOP (National Crime Agency). At the heart of these excellent resources are three films that follow the adventures of Alfie, Ellie and Sam as they form a band and enter their school's Battle of the Bands contest, taking on the mean but 'cool' Popcorn Wizards as they go. The three friends learn that while the internet can help, they need to use it wisely and safely. The aim of the films is to help 8-10 year olds learn how to stay safe online. In particular, the films and activities teach them to spot the early signs of manipulative, pressurising and threatening behaviour by people they might meet online, and develop their confidence to respond safely and get help. You can download the full resource pack (containing high quality videos, lesson plans, parents' letters and resources) here. You'll need to create an account (free) if you haven't already done so but it's well worth it.

If you haven't seen the resources that Childnet produced a few months ago, those are well worth a look too. It's designed to support teachers in exploring critical thinking online. The 'Trust Me' resource 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. I've used these resources with quite a few groups of children in a number of schools and they have always gone done very well. They can be downloaded here. All of these resources will be integrated into the Herefordshire Computing Progression shortly.

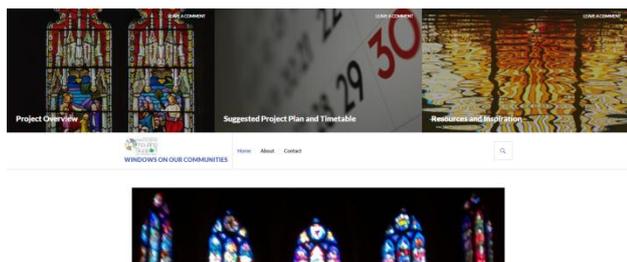## Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 7th February

The theme of this year's Safer Internet Day is "Be the change: unite for a better internet." As always, schools around the world will be engaging in e-safety related activity on this day, many throughout the whole week. I know that several in Herefordshire are because I've been asked to help with many of them. You'll find a great range of resources

and activities on the UK Safer Internet website or you might like to get going with either of the two resources mentioned above. It's all about pupil power! If you can't afford the teaching time to be involved consider ordering copies of the latest edition (5) of the Vodafone / Digital Parenting magazine free of charge to send home to parents.

Windows on our Communities

This is a media project that I hope to run county-wide from September 2017. It will be particularly attractive to Church schools and is based on the idea of linking images in stained glass in your local church to real life projects that happen in your local community and celebrating them. I've created a website with a fair degree of background and a number of resources to get you going; you might like to take a look. A handful of schools have agreed to pilot the idea over the next couple of terms and I will be working closely with them to see how things go. The results of their work will be found on the website as soon as they are finished and then the whole thing will grow over the next year or so.

Herefordshire Music Conference – Wednesday 1st February

Are any of your colleagues coming to the annual Music Conference at the Three Counties Hotel this year? I'm running a couple of workshops: one on using the Garage Band app in the classroom for performance and composition and a second (now full) on how music and computing can support each other. Details and booking here (not much time left for booking!)

Spring Term Primary coordinators' conference – Friday 24th February

This is on Friday 24th February at the Council Offices on Plough Lane (a new venue for the conference) 13:00 – 15:30. Content has yet to be finalised but you can book a place here.

That's it – if you want a longer newsletter the E^{2}BN (the West Midland's much bigger sister) newsletter has just dropped into my inbox – that's always a good read. It's here

Herefordshire Computing Support is:

Mark Sanderson
Computing Consultant
07792 880770

msanderson@herefordshire.gov.uk
www.herefordshirecomputing.com

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