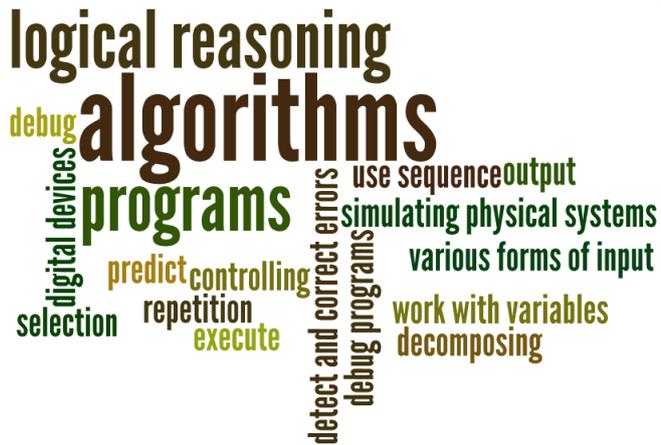


This newsletter contains links and is best viewed online. It is available at <https://hereford.itslearning.com>

Computing Curriculum - Programming



The big news in schools around the country at the moment is the new 2014 Curriculum. In the case of ICT this comes not only with new content but a whole new name. The subject of *ICT* will be replaced in September with that of *Computing*. With the change of name comes what is being regarded by many as a new element, that of Computer Science, and as far as the KS1 and KS2 Programme of Study is concerned this brings a renewed focus on programming.

There's nothing to be scared of here, even though the vocabulary surrounding it seems a little unfamiliar. Programming can be great fun. Jo and I are certainly enjoying working with classes of children and their teachers introducing new ways of delivering this part of the new curriculum. There are many really great programming tools for children to use, especially *Scratch* and *Kodu*. But teachers with no idea where to start would be well advised to look at Espresso's new offering: *Espresso Coding* (see below). This strand also includes control technology. Don't forget that we have class sets of kit we can lend you to cover this (of course with our support too). We've just bought some class sets of *LEGO WeDo* – a great way to teach control and its associated programming

We'll be featuring mainly on all of this in the next **ICT Coordinators' Conference** which will take place at **Holmer CE Academy** (our new home) on **Tuesday 25th February, 13:00 – 16:00**. You can find out more about this and book a place [here](#).

Espresso Coding

This is a great new product from Espresso. It's separate from the main Espresso offering and totally free to use until October. It's a fabulous way of delivering some of the more taxing requirements of the new Computing Curriculum. The great thing is that you can use it with little preparation and pull your own skills up alongside the children's.



It's presented as 12 units (two per year) with 6 lessons in each unit. Every lesson is broken down into steps and illustrated with videos explain what to do. You only see the elements of the programming language that you need for the task in hand. Children and teachers are loving it!

You can sign up for it by visiting www.espressocoding.co.uk, don't forget it's FREE until October – so get going soon.

We'll be delighted to come in and deliver a staff meeting for everyone so that you'll feel well equipped to get going with it in the classroom, or we can come and work with you on lesson one, with your class if that's more appealing. Just [contact us](#).

Tablets – iPads

We just love going around working with schools on this area. In our opinion the iPad (though we should point out that other tablets are available) is something of a pivotal device for learning and teaching in primary schools. Levels of engagement with this device in education continue to rise, this is no less the case in Herefordshire.



One of the things that make the iPad so great is the huge range of excellent (and cheap) apps, some specifically designed for education but many that weren't. iPads (though other tablets are available!) are immediately embraced by children as a seriously cool piece of technology and the rate at which they pick up and run with basic techniques is quite amazing. This means that creative ICT projects that were once beyond reach are now entirely accessible.

We're often asked if it's possible to cover the whole of the ICT / Computing curriculum with an iPad. The answer is yes, most certainly. You'll probably need to spend less time on basic skills and have to plan for the children to be more creative. You'll also find that lesson ICT lessons will demand greater pace. You won't be able to depend on the first 10 minutes of the lesson to be spent logging on and you'll need to be prepared for the times outside ICT lesson where children start to say "can we use an iPad for this" But we think all those are good things!

We'd love to come in and have conversations with you about how you can embrace this technology as is most appropriate in your school. We've spent a lot of time researching the best ways to start on this journey. Implementation certainly has its pitfalls if you're not careful, it's important that you have a vision and essential that you support your vision with training. You will need to approach the technology in a different way from the kit that schools have been using for many years. The benefits are massive though.

We've recently bought 2 sets of iPads which are available to schools on loan for three week periods (you just pay for the insurance while they are with you). A range of content free apps supporting all areas of the Computing curriculum are on them. We'll bring them out to you, set them up and work with the class(es) and teacher(s) trialling them. You will have to wait a bit though because they are in great demand. Just [let us know](#) if you'd like to join the waiting list.

And what about those other tablets that are available? In our opinion, on this occasion, we think you're better off going down the Apple route.

E-Safety ambassador project

We hope that you managed to observe Safer Internet Day (11th February) in some way. We have certainly been busy supporting schools in many things e-safety related this year. If you didn't there's still time to get involved. Have a look at some of the resources that were available on www.saferinternet.org.uk



We're planning another e-safety pupil ambassador event for the summer term. Look out for details later in the term about how you can get involved. Last year's event was well appreciated by the schools that took part. Five of those rose to our challenge to create a film. St Mary's Credenhill won the competition for which the prize was an iPad. You can [view all the films here](#) (YouTube link)

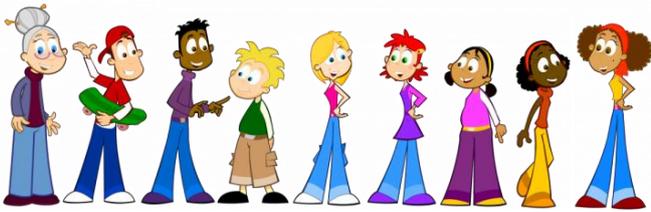
Film project 2014



We're on year 10 and still counting! This year we've opened the project out to the whole of key stage two and we're inviting those taking part (more than ever before) to choose their own focus for the film. For the first time this year we're exploiting the potential of the iPad (with iMovie and associated apps) to make films using a tablet rather than a computer. We've always tried to run these projects in such a way that they can be sustained afterwards back in the classroom; at last we have a piece of kit that we hope will truly allow this to happen. It's going to be fun, we'll let you know later in the year what gets created.

Last year's project, *Herefordshire Histories* brought in one of the best crops of films we ever had. You can [view them here](#) (this is a YouTube link so you may need to look at home if your filtering doesn't allow access in school) You'll also find them at www.schoolstube.com – search for Herefordshire Histories

EducationCity.com update



Quite a few people have been asking what's happening with Education City. Here are some answers. They are in the process of rewriting the whole product (V2) so that it no longer relies on Flash and will therefore run on iPads. The rewrite is embracing changes in the new curriculum. They will contact you later in the year (around July) when your school is ready to migrate to the new version.

The new Computing module will also be released soon. This promises to focus on the safe and responsible use of technology and how pupils should be taught to behave in the digital world- all aligned to the new Computing Curriculum.

The last deal we brokered with Education City for Herefordshire schools comes to an end at the end of March. EducationCity will be contacting schools very soon with a renewal price for next year.

New Apps

This section could go on for ever but we've limited ourselves to just 3.



[Zu3D - £4.99](#) – This is an app version of the popular animation software (which cost £32.50). It does pretty much everything its big brother does. The great thing about Zu3D (apart from its cuddliness) is the fact that you can make your whole project in just one piece of software (or app) – animation, music, titles, sound effects ...



[Green Screen - £1.99](#) – Green screening is a fun video technique. Film against a green background, then replace the background with a video of something else and suddenly your action can be happening anywhere. This great new app is really easy to use and better than anything we've seen before in the app store.



[Little Digits - £1.99](#) – A great little app for EYFS and KS1. It does finger counting (up to 10). You place your fingers on the iPad and the app tells you how many. When you've done that you move onto solving simple addition and subtraction. The app asks the question, you answer it by placing fingers on the iPad. Great fun!

Sumdog competition winners

You will probably be aware of [Sumdog](#). It's a web-based product supporting maths with interactive games. At a basic level it's all FREE. Sumdog launch competitions from time to time and one of these has just closed. Winning schools in Herefordshire are:



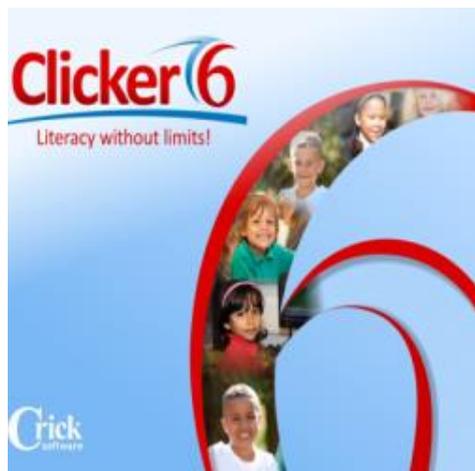
Be a hero:
play in a
contest.



- Most correct answers: **Weobley Primary** (1st), **St Peter's Bromyard** (2nd), **Madley Primary** (3rd)
- Tom S – **Hereford Cathedral Junior School** (1st) Nathan H – **Whitchurch CE Primary** (2nd)
Harry S – **Pencombe CE Primary** (3rd)

A full list of winners [can be found here](#). If you fancy taking part next time, the next competition will be starting on 9th May. Look out for the emails nearer the time.

Clicker 6



There's been renewed interest in Clicker in Herefordshire schools with the release last year of Clicker 6. It certainly is a much improved piece of software. Several training sessions recently have been oversubscribed and we'll run some more later in the year.

Clicker is an expensive piece of software and you need to be sure that it's going to be used before you consider investing in this. It is possible to get a discount if you have Clicker 5, nothing for earlier versions though.

If you'd like support in school for this, please let us know. We strongly advise that you consider getting us to come and train teaching assistants as well as teachers and then think carefully about which children will benefit from using it and how you will make it available to them.

Our priorities and courses for 2014/15

These have been sent out on the usual helpful subject leaders' ICT development plan format to head teachers and ICT Coordinators. Our two main priorities for this year are supporting the new Computing curriculum and supporting schools with advice and training as they plan for and introduce tablets into the classroom. We'll be talking through priorities at the ICT Coordinators' Conference on 25th February; these priorities will also be reflected in our new course programme which we'll publish very soon. If you're registered with CPD Online you'll receive notifications as they are published. If you are not registered visit www.herefordshirecpd.co.uk Don't forget that all courses are free of charge to all schools that buy into our service level agreement.

Contact details - we are:

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<p>msanderson@herefordshire.gov.uk</p>		<p>jbrace@herefordshire.gov.uk</p>	