

It doesn't feel like 21 years

This is the last newsletter I shall send you, as you may have heard I'm leaving my role in Herefordshire at the end of this term. It's been the most fantastic 21 years and I can honestly say that I've loved every minute of it. It's quite incredible how things have shifted in that time, and how much my role has changed.

I'd like to say a big thank you to every primary school in Herefordshire for the welcome that has been extended to me on every occasion I've visited over that time. Herefordshire is a splendid place to work and nowhere better than its primary schools. An even bigger "thank you" to the many schools who have put their faith in me in more recent years from the point when the service I (and those working alongside me at the time) provide became chargeable - I think that was about 13 years ago – gosh! Thanks too for the lovely comments that so many people have sent me.

Am I being replaced? No, I'm not. But I have a couple of suggestions as to where you might look for support:

The Hereford iStore (Albion)



Most of you will be familiar with Hereford's iStore, it's likely to be the people you go to for your iPads and probably some level of support in managing them. It's equally likely that you will have worked with Elliot Broadbent-Jones. Also based at the iStore is John Holder (a teacher) who offers similar support to me, to schools. I've worked with Elliot and John for many years and they are broadening the pedagogical support they can offer. They plan to draw on help

form colleagues in schools where good practice is evident. In particular they are going to continue to run the

[Digital Leaders programme](#) (which has had a 2 year holiday during the pandemic) and the next round of pupil conferences is being planned for April / May. There's much more detail on their offering to schools [here](#), along with costs and how to sign up. Additionally, Elliot and John are leading a brief online drop-in session to explain more and to answer any questions on **Wednesday 9th March at 3.45**. [Click here](#) to join that meeting.

Entrust (Capita)



For many years I've appreciated the support of colleagues in other Local Authorities who are doing a similar job to me. Two of the people I've held in highest esteem in this network have been Sharon Cuffin and Vikky Bott who began in Local Authority roles similar to mine but now work for Entrust (a branch of Capita) supporting schools in

a number of West Midlands authorities. Entrust is able to spread its support still further and will be happy to take on work in Herefordshire.

Again, you can read more of what they can offer [here](#), and if you'd like to meet Sharon and Vikki you can do that virtually on **Thursday 17th March** at either at 8.30 am [by clicking here](#) or in the afternoon [at 4 pm, here](#).

Herefordshire Computing Progression 2020



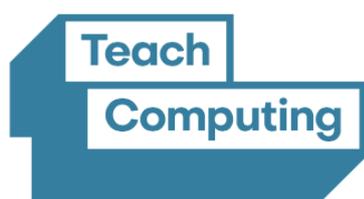
It's my intention to keep the [website](#) going for a while and with it the Herefordshire Computing Progression materials (though there will be no further updates from me). I used some time early in the first lockdown to carry out a complete overhaul of the 2014 progression materials. This was quite a big piece of work and these materials now are fit for purpose again, and shorter! Much more detail about what has changed [on the website](#). And if you're using these materials there's also a [coordinator's guide to surviving a deep dive](#) in Computing.

Computing Resources – class sets

One of the popular services I've been offering is class sets of computing equipment that is expensive to resource. These will remain on offer to schools and the bulk of them can be booked out (collected and returned) from [Simon Field](#) at Ashfield Park Primary in Ross. I've updated the relevant pages on the website, but in brief they are:

- LEGO WeDo 2 – 15 sets (1 class)
- LEGO Story Starter – 6 boxes (1 class) these are going to Bosbury Primary
- Drones – class set
- Micro:bit – Class set of about 30

Teach Computing – a free unit-based scheme of work



Several schools are now using resources from *Teach Computing* (National Centre for Computing Education – NCCE). The key one is their scheme of work. It's very much a unit-based scheme (not my favourite approach) but if you want a blow-by-blow structure to teaching computing in 6 week blocks then you'll find that here. You will need to be prepared to adapt things

though; it's very computer rather than tablet based in its resources. I don't find the scheme the easiest thing to find but this link will take you straight there: <https://teachcomputing.org/curriculum>

Seesaw

I want to have one last plug for Seesaw and this can be summed up by a single statement: **Seesaw is not just for lockdowns and home learning**. It was originally conceived as a tool to take the Learning Journal idea beyond EYFS. Since then it's expanded in all manner of directions, and continues to do so. I've been quite saddened to see the number of schools that invested such great energies (and in some cases money) into getting to grips with this tool only to leave it sitting on the shelf once everyone was back in the classroom. Seesaw is the most fantastic tool for:



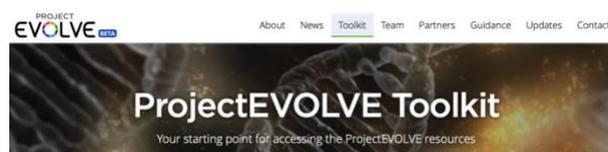
- Getting digital resources out to students
- Collecting and saving (including as evidence) their work
- Sharing their work – especially with other children
- Learning essential lessons about online safety – in a practical way not from a worksheet!

But you do need to let them share! If you turn everything off in an attempt to eliminate any risk, most of this can't happen.

Online Safety – framework and resources

Where do you go for Online Safety resources? The landscape has changed over the years, I've signposted all sorts of things. The message has changed too so if you're still using the same resources you downloaded some years ago you really should revisit and rethink. My first port of call these days is [ProjectEVOLVE](#). This is a first rate resource, always evolving, and is built on the government endorsed [Education for a Connected World](#) - a well thought through framework, consisting of eight key strands that run from Early Years to Sixth Form. It's now fully incorporated into the [Herefordshire Computing Progression](#).

[ProjectEVOLVE](#) is a broad set of materials that are being produced through a collaboration between the *UK Safer Internet Centre* and the *South West Grid for Learning*.



These materials put meat on the bones of the UKCIS framework by providing teaching resources. The breadth of coverage is now excellent, and constantly expanding.

Online Safety from home: Embark on The Legends Family Adventure!



Developed by Google, Parent Zone and Aardman, This is an animated series that follows a family of Internauts on an exciting online safety adventure. The accompanying challenge gives families the chance to win prizes for their school.

[Register for the challenge here](#) to find out know more [book onto a free online workshop for teachers here](#).

Another good way to get into the materials would be to sign up for one of their free live assemblies. There's an example of one [here](#).

Thinkuknow Resources

One really popular set of online safety resources in the past (quite distant past now) was CEOP's Thinkuknow. In the light of the changing focus for online safety, CEOP have recently asked that "if you still have any of the following resources: Lee & Kim, Hector's World, Jigsaw, Consequences, Tom's Story, Sam's Real Friends, please delete and use our [current resources for the age range](#)." Better still, I'd say, start with ProjectEVOLVE (above)



Digiduck Stories from Childnet

Finally, on the online safety front, if you're working with Early Years or KS1 children and haven't discovered the [Digiduck stories](#) you're missing a treat. The first one (Digiduck's Big Decision) is quite old now but still perfectly current. Childnet has been adding to the series and there are now five online books – all free. All excellent resources for the classroom but even better if you draw them to the attention of parents for use at home; better because there are always strong messages (and support) for parents too. If you used the Safer Internet Day KS1 assembly last month you will have encountered the most recent book as a part of that.



Digiduck's Famous Friend

Digiduck® and his classmates are set the task of finding out who their special guest will be at school today.



Digiduck and the Magic Castle

There's a new game that everyone's playing, and Digiduck wants to join in!



Detective Digiduck

The third story in the Digiduck® series, focussing on reliability of online information.



Digiduck's Big Decision

A story for 3 to 7 year olds about being a good friend to others on the internet.



Digiduck Saves the Day

The fifth story in the Digiduck series, focussing on positive uses of the internet to help others.

Locking the door and turning off the lights ...

I'm deeply conscious that my departure does represent something of an end of era moment in Local Authority support for Learning and Teaching in Herefordshire. The Learning and Achievement Service, ably led by Alison Naylor, still very much exists but has a very different purpose now from when I joined it. I commented a few times - ten or so years ago, while signing leaving cards for my excellent departing curriculum colleagues - that there would be no one left to sign mine, and so it is!

You've probably stopped reading by now, but finally I would like to pay tribute to all the brilliant people I've worked with over the years. There's only room here for me to mention ICT / Computing colleagues. I did 2 years in a very similar role to the one I'm leaving now, between 1992-4, which takes me back to Hereford and Worcester days.

So, in reverse order, and with something of a feeling of nostalgia for those halcyon days (not to mention apologies to the people I have missed out) here they are. How far back can you go?

- Jo Brace
- Asha Begley
- Tony Bailey
- Claire Crump
- Sarah Panniers
- Michelle Horsburgh
- Steve Alderton
- Martin Fowler
- Steve Horsfield
- Bryan Caffelle
- Anwil Williams
- Jane Jakeman
- Dave Thompson
- Jim Milton
- Pat Tattersall
- Jane Finch
- Chris O'Donnell
- Steve Wilkes
- Malcolm White
- Bob Fox

Keep on Computing and providing the wonderful education that you do for young people in Herefordshire! It's been a delight working with you. I'm feeling very sad now!

Herefordshire Computing Support is (for just a little longer) ...

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