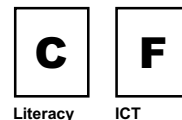


ICT ACTIVITY 11

Using e-mail to collaboratively write a science fiction story with children from another school.

Year Group: Year 4



Resources

LGfL 'digitalbrain' e-mail (or another e-mail facility) and a word processor. Digital camera.

Context (Pupils' prior experience)

None of the pupils in either school had used web-based e-mail before, but were familiar with using a word processor. The range for the text level work for this term included Science Fiction. Text Level work focused on writing in collaboration with others using descriptive and expressive language including adjectives and similes.

Task Description

The pupils were first shown how to send and receive e-mails using a 'safe' web based system. The first pair of pupils had to begin a story and e-mail it to the other school where a second pair of pupils opened it, pasted it into a word processing document and continued it. The story was then sent back and forth until it was finished, with amendments being made as needed. In the final week the pupils took digital photographs of themselves and sent them as attachments to the other school.

Learning Intentions

Literacy: Knowledge and Understanding	ICT: Skills, Knowledge and Understanding	ICT Level		
		KS1	KS2	KS3
Writing in sentences with capital letters and full stops.	Pupils send and reply to e-mails with some awareness of the audience. Can send an attachment with guidance.	w/1	2/3	4/5
Write a 'setting' for a story using adjectives. Write an imaginative opening using extended sentences.	Pupils competently use the e-mail system to share the composition of stories. Send and open attachments and independently save their work.	1/2	3/4	5/6
Write a 'setting' for a story including similes. Writing is well paced and organised. Evidence of effective editing.	Pupils use ICT to exchange ideas using email with an awareness of the audience. Independently assess and overcome problems.	2/3	4/5	6/7
Literacy POS related to task: En 3: 1a, 1e, 2c, 9b NLS Objectives: Year 4, T2, Text 10, 12, 13	ICT POS related to task: 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 3a, 4a, 4b, 4c.			

Teaching Approach

Whole class introduction and demonstrations. Mixed ability pairs supporting each other. Plenaries to share good examples. A full description can be found in the on-line lesson plans on: <http://ecs.lewisham.gov.uk/intict>

Links with other curriculum areas

Literacy – Speaking and listening, discussions with partner

Subject Learning Gains (Literacy)

Writing and editing skills improved.



Hello, here is the start of our story - Pupil A & B
(School 1)

As I took my first step on the planet I saw a green ,eight eyed alien, big spaceships flying in the air. Then I walked a bit futher and I saw craters,It 's as frizzing as ice I was shivering. I was a long way from my ship I felt like I had to run because I saw aliens. Walking felt like there was a big wind going past me. Please reply to

Hello, here is the 2nd part of the story - Pupil C & D
(School 2)

The aliens were huge. They had long thin antennae and eight bulging eyes. They had huge blood red lips with gooey spit dripping out of the corners of their mouths and they smelt like they had come out of a sewer. The biggest alien swivelled two of its massive glittery eyes in my direction and started coming towards me. I was frozen with fear. WOW!! we loved your story

Hello, here is the 3rd part of the story - Pupil A & B
(School 1)

As soon as the alien touched me I ran as fast as I could back then I bumped into the most biggest spaceship ever. I did not know what to do should I get in it? Well, the aliens were catching up.So I didn't have any time I got in the ship started up the engine then I flew into space.As soon as I got in space I saw a giant eight eyed, ugly



This pupil has worked well with a partner and correspondents. He was able to access his account on most occasions and develop a dialogue with other pupils. He attached the photograph with little help.

This pupil is working at ICT Level 3. **Teachers' Assessment**

Key Stage 2

Computer Diary

Name _____ Date 12/3/03

What was my task?
to use Digital brain to send e-mails with attachments to another school

What software did I use? Internet explorer digital brain

Who did I work with? Who helped me? my friend and my teacher

What did I do?
1. log in 4. click the web site 7. See how many
2. items for venus 5. press key in 8. read them
3. internet explorer 6. press smile face

What did I learn?
I learned how to send e-mails on apple works computer. We attached our ~~e-mails~~ photos to our e-mails

What will I improve/change next time?
try to get my spelling right on the computer.

How do I feel about my computer work?

😊 😐 😞 ☹️

Pupils' Evaluation

Teachers' Evaluation

Teachers' Evaluation of the e-learning Project

What were the aims of the project?
To introduce the digitalbrain e-mail system.
To work collaboratively on a Science Fiction story with another school.

Why did you embark on the project?
To explore ways of using the Internet that fitted in with the school's literacy plan.
To upload and initiate use of the digitalbrain accounts within the school with some assistance.

What were the issues?
The pupils had not used email before in any form and encountered problems with the accuracy needed to access their accounts.
There were technical glitches with digitalbrain and their servers on more than one occasion when we were unable to access digitalbrain e-mail templates.
Due to access problems the stories did not progress as far as we had hoped, though some pupils did work on them in word processing documents and were able paste them into an e-mail.
The class was involved in an ongoing music project with outside agencies causing some time tabling problems. There were also problems arranging supply cover when needed.

Where do you plan to take the project next?
Consolidate the pupils' skills by more e-mail work, but within the class and school where it is possible to monitor communication more easily.
Explore further use of moving between programs - e.g. Internet Explorer and Word Processing.
Look at working on the project next year, but only if pupils first introduced to e-mail in Year 3

What have you learned through your involvement in the project?
The pupils' vocabulary was extended and they were enthusiastic about communicating with pupils in another school.
They loved seeing the attached photos.
They have an idea about e-mail works and it's potential.
They have begun to master the proficiency and need to type in accurate addresses when using e-mail and the Internet.
They learnt to respond to another person's writing and continue that work.
The school now has an e-mail system up and running, ready for future use.
Teacher and teaching assistant knowledge has improved, regarding digitalbrain e-mail and some keyboard shortcuts.

We took on too much for one 6-week project. In the future if the QCA unit on e-mail for Year 3 are followed and available to be built on it should be more successful. (The digitalbrain accounts have only been recently set up and previously the pupils had no e-mail facilities in school.)
The addresses, usernames and passwords for digitalbrain are a challenge for adults to type in never mind 9 year old children.
It was a steep learning curve for both pupils and adults!