

ICT Curricular Team

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Glow is developing and changing daily. We would like to encourage all members of staff to have an active Glow username and password. If you log in this month you will be eligible to enter a Prize Draw where you can win a Flip video camera. Details can be found on the East Lothian Council page within GLOW.

If staff have not been given log in details or have forgotten their password, please email stodd@eastlothian.gov.uk putting "GLOW Login details" in the title of the email.

Glow Refresh

Glow is now 5 years old, and staff across Scotland have made suggestions for improvements. A "Glow Refresh" project is now under way to add some of the new tools suggested.

The main change you'll notice will be the addition of simple web publishing using blogs and wikis. Wikis are simple websites that many people can edit with word-processor-like tools, and are proving educationally valuable. Other improvements will include improved discussion forums, and better management reporting tools.

The blogs will use the same WordPress MU software we use for Edubuzz blogs, meaning we'll avoid having to learn a new system. Testing of wiki options, including Mindtouch, is under way. The new discussion forums will use phpBB, a leading bulletin board system.

Head teachers have been advised to allow some time at the start of next session to enable staff to get a short introduction to the new tools, and the aim is to run some hands-on training for interested staff after that.

Find out more here:
<http://edubuzz.org/blogs/curriculumforexcellence/2009/10/13/glow-refresh/>

Thanks!!



Each school cluster has an ICT officer who is responsible for dealing with all the calls logged by teaching and admin staff. In addition to responding to these calls, they fulfill requests from the IT department, Education ICT department and cover colleagues who are off ill or have an overload of work to complete. They are committed and professional, working long hours, answering emails at weekends and doing their utmost to provide an excellent service to schools.

Often they will have as many as 30 jobs on their queue. With over 4,000 computers in schools across East Lothian the demand for help, software upgrades and installations, repairs, server and networking issues, their workload is huge.

To Terry, Cat, Laura, Derek, Stephen, Chris and Graeme.....our grateful thanks.

King's Meadow Primary School has been using two excellent internet based programs produced by Sherston. These programs are based on an annual subscription.

Gogglebox is a topic-based Humanities program with a wealth of activities and resources. There are upwards of 20 different topics to access. Each of these topics has between 5 and 9 separate areas within it. Within each of these topics there is a video task, a research task, a differentiated quiz, an activity to create pictures and diagrams, an interactive debate task, a differentiated writing task and additional digital and printable resources including example texts, photos, research texts, a glossary and further activities.

This program can be used on an interactive whiteboard with a whole class, with small groups or individually. When the children complete a piece of work they save it to the Gallery within the program. This can be accessed by the teacher and the children, and feedback given without printing the piece of work. There is also a password protected teacher's area.

Many teachers have used the program as a basis for topic work but many have also used it for writing activities. It is particularly well suited to working within Curriculum for Excellence due to the diversity of the topics and tasks.

Well worth a look!! The lessons are great with minimal planning required, ICT and literacy are embedded throughout, and there is unlimited online access and full home access at no extra cost.



Gogglebox

Crystal ICT is packed with quality adventure activities that promote creativity and problem solving. There are interactive tutorials to help develop important ICT skills, profcasts with supporting materials, resources, tips and curriculum-led site map for teachers. In addition there is a wealth of free downloadable educational materials and, to make planning much simpler and less time consuming, an easy to follow Classroom Guide full of lesson plans and guidance. The activities are differentiated and can be controlled via a password-protected teacher's area. Use this channel in the computer suite with a whole class, use it in small groups or use it individually.

Why not sign up for a free trial at - www.sherston.com

Gael Gillan, Teacher King's Meadow Primary

TAP TALE

Story-writing meets games design

What if students could create stories that weren't just text, but became interactive computer games? That's the idea behind TapTale, a new literacy application.

"TapTale lets you read and write Tales on your iPhone and iPod Touch, where you tap, tilt, turn, shake and swipe to discover what happens next!"

Over the coming months, classes at Ross High and Sanderson's Wynd will be helping test TapTale for the Consolarium, Learning and Teaching Scotland's centre for the use of computer games in education. Class sets of iPod Touch devices are on loan from LTS. The project is also expected to provide valuable experience of the potential value of these devices, and the wide range of free educational applications, in everyday classroom use.



<http://tes.iboard.co.uk>

This free site run by the Times Ed. has hundreds of interactive whiteboard resources from the Early Years to Key Stage 2. There are too many to mention and you should just have an exploration session playing with it. It covers literacy, numeracy, science, history, geography, R.E., ICT and Early Years. I have used the Numeracy Year 1 Interactive Number Square from P1-P6 to play with counting across decades, times table work, negative numbers, adding, subtracting and number patterns. It lets you choose start number, number step, how many rows and columns and has a great magic wand function. It's Head Teacher proof so anyone can use it! All of the resources are high quality and work well and although the bias is towards the English system don't discount them because of that. There's something there for everyone.

Richard Wilson, Head Teacher Pinkie St Peters

Brainsmart from BBC Scotland: Get your brain to work better!

Ever wished you could get your brain to work better? Brainsmart can help you discover how to:

- maximise your memory
- get motivated
- achieve your goals

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/brainsmart/>



Edubuzz Google Applications

Edubuzz Google Apps continues to prove popular within East Lothian schools. The standard system complements Edubuzz blogs and Glow by providing Mail, Calendars, Documents and Sites, and we've also added private bulletin board discussions (Google Groups) and sharing of video to Edubuzz users (Google Video).

Many of these services, including Mail and Document sharing, can now be accessed via mobile devices. Find out more at <http://m.google.com>.

Usernames and passwords for remaining primary school students are currently being generated and issued to schools. Please contact David Gilmour if you'd like your own login; staff logins are being issued on request.



Horses for Courses: Choosing Online Learning Tools in East Lothian Schools

Edubuzz blogs, Glow and Edubuzz Google Apps for Education: why does East Lothian offer learners a variety of online learning tools? And which is the best choice for me? It all depends what you want to do. Find out more in our "Horses for Courses" note, which has now been published to the **Education ICT News** blog here: <http://bit.ly/el-online-choices>

Edubuzz Blogs: What's happened to WordPress?

During the February break, Edubuzz blogs were upgraded to WordPress MU 2.7.1. This update was necessary for security reasons, but also changed the admin screens – hopefully for the better - and introduced some helpful new features.

The main difference in the admin screen is a new "Quickpress" feature so that as soon as you log in, you're ready to blog!

Also, you can now personalise the back-end menus you see. In the "Posts" screen, for example, you can use a new "Screen options" button to choose which columns you see.



You can also drag around menu components, and collapse the left-hand sidebar to make more space available.

Another useful new feature is the ability to add a user who's not already signed up; just specify their email address and WordPress will create their account and send them login details.

Frequently Asked Questions

My whiteboard has stopped working - I am not sure if it's the projector or the board, who should I call?
Adventi 0845 658 9995 avsupport@adventi.com

Can I buy new software and ask IT to install it?
No, all software (and hardware) should be bought through IT.

I can't remember my Glow password. What should I do?

E-mail Suzanne Todd for a replacement.
Stodd@eastlothian.gov.uk

I don't have time to make up my own flipcharts on ActivPrimary / ActivInspire. Is there a resource of ready made ones?

Yes, register at www.prometheanplanet.com and make use of their excellent flipcharts and resource packs.

How can I upgrade to ActivInspire?

Email IT to have it installed on your laptop?

Can I access my school email from home?

Yes, from your home computer.
<https://mail.elcschool.org.uk>

How can I get a Word Press username and password so I can put information on our school blog?

Your school should have a generic username and password. If you want your own, email dgilmour@eastlothian.gov.uk

Can I arrange to get email addresses for my class?

Yes, all pupils are to be provisioned with Google email addresses. Please email stodd@eastlothian.gov.uk for class lists.

Clicker 5 does not open up in my Applications folder – what's wrong?

It needs a software update. Log a call to ask for this ithelpdesk@eastlothian.gov.uk

Canon Printsmart update

The PrintSmart project is a Council-approved initiative to reduce the financial and environmental costs of printing and copying. Schools can expect to save **£50,000 per annum** if recommendations are taken on board.

Work has started on the second phase of the project, printer rationalisation, with North Berwick High School. There, 29 of the 55 printers are being removed, leaving 26 devices in place. Preston Lodge High School is next. A full programme will be available in due course, but this phase is likely to take until the end of the summer term. Please bear in mind: the purchase price of a printer is negligible compared to the ongoing consumables and maintenance costs.

Pupils and students can print to the new Canon devices. This requires each PC to have a print driver installed to achieve this "direct printing". This can be done when your IT colleagues are on-site as part of the printer rationalisation phase of this project.

The project team are still seeking more PrintSmart champions. A new "trouble-shooting guide" has been produced and will be sent to key contacts in your school soon – it is important to know whether to report an issue to the IT Helpdesk or directly to Canon, to avoid unnecessary delays. The guide will assist with that. If you haven't yet done so, please refer to the website created especially for East Lothian Council by Canon for training guides and other useful information <https://customer.canon.co.uk/elc>.

Donald McGillviray, Head Teacher at King's Meadow Primary School, is the education representative on the PrintSmart Project. Donald said "I wanted to achieve more accountability and control over the money being spent on copying and printing. The secure printing achieves that. We will only have 2 devices in the school – a Canon MFP and an HP printer - and we are hoping to make significant savings as a result".

Some quick reminders of what changes the Council, through the PrintSmart project, have implemented:

Changes	Benefits
Default setting is double-sided (duplex) and Black & White printing	Reduces paper usage – can contribute to us saving 1,440 trees per year. Reduces colour toner usage.
Secure printing or pull printing through card readers	Reduces the number of unwanted and uncollected prints - reducing paper, toner usage and no click cost incurred – on average 16% of prints are deleted without printing. Provides confidentiality of documents
Reducing the number of printers	Reduced energy consumption, carbon footprint reduced, reduced spend on expensive cartridges, less IT support required
Scanning feature – "send to me"	Avoids copying which avoids paper usage. Scanning is completely free
Canon devices are Energy Start rated	Reduced energy consumption. Please don't switch off –leave in sleep mode

Julie Caughey Finance Manager (Financial Services)

STOP PRESS!!

Join the P6/7 "People who help us" Glow Meet with Police, Thurs 22nd April

Together with Midlothian schools, we're hoping to have another Glow Meet for P6/7 on Thursday 22nd April. The theme is 'People who help us' with a focus on the generic safer communities messages. The new Commander at Dalkeith will host the session at Woodburn Primary and we can make this available to any school that wishes to take part. He will hopefully also make some podcasts on the run up to the summer around a variety of personal safety and respect for the community themes. Pupils will of course have a chance to ask questions to help with their own enquiries!