



# INTERNATIONAL LINKS NEWS

Summer Term MAY 08



## International Calendar

**5 June** **World Environment Day**

The World Environment Day slogan for 2008 is 'Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy'. For further details, visit: [www.unep.org/wed/2008/english](http://www.unep.org/wed/2008/english) [www.globaleye.org.uk](http://www.globaleye.org.uk)

**16-22 June** **Refugee Week**

2001 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

**4 July** **Independence Day**



On July 4, 1776, America claimed their independence from Britain and Democracy was born. The USA celebrate this day every year.

**11 July** **World Population Day**

An annual event that celebrates the date when the world's population reached 5 billion (11 July 1987).



**8 Sep** **International Literacy Day**



In 2001, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2003 to 2012 as the Literacy Decade: Education for All. The Assembly believes that creating literate environments is essential to eradicating poverty, achieving gender equity and ensuring sustainable development.

**21 Sep** **International Day of Peace**

The International Day of Peace calls on all nations to observe a day of global ceasefire and non-violence and invites all people everywhere in the world to honour a cessation of hostilities throughout the day.

**26 Sep** **European Day of Languages**

A day to celebrate languages and language learning.

**4-10 Oct** **World Space Week**



Celebrated each year at international level, the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition. [www.worldspaceweek.org](http://www.worldspaceweek.org)

**5 Oct** **World Teachers Day**

A day to celebrate the unique and vital role of teachers, in every country and continent of the world.

**16 Oct** **World Food Day**

Heightens public awareness of world food problems and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

**17 Oct** **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

Promotes awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries.

**24 Oct** **United Nations Day**

This date marks the anniversary of the launch of the United Nations Charter in 1945. Celebrated since 1948, United Nations Day is marked throughout the world by meetings, discussions and exhibits on the achievements and goals of the UN. The purposes of the United Nations, identified in the UN Charter, include maintaining international peace and security, solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and promoting respect for human rights. [www.un.org/events/unday/2007](http://www.un.org/events/unday/2007)



# BEIJING OLYMPICS 8-24 AUGUST 2008



Beijing 2008™

*Ice-cream was  
invented in China  
4000 years ago*

*For every person  
who can speak  
English, at least 3  
speak Mandarin*



The 2008 Beijing Olympics were scheduled for 25 July to 10 Aug. The International Olympic Committee executive board agreed to move the dates to Aug. 8-24 at Beijing's request. Beijing had asked for the dates to be changed to avoid the height of the Beijing summer, when temperatures typically reach 38°C.

## China Design Now

Victoria & Albert Museum South  
Kensington

Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2RL Tel:  
0207 942 2000

[www.vam.ac.uk/chinadesignnow](http://www.vam.ac.uk/chinadesignnow)

**15 March–13 July 08**

Exhibitions, Room 39 & North  
Court

The V&A's spring exhibition, China Design Now, will explore the recent explosion of new design in China, from the 2008 Olympic stadium to the most interesting fashion and graphics.

The exhibition captures a dynamic phase as China opens up to global influences, and looks at developments in three rapidly expanding cities - Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen. It will display the work of Chinese and international designers, focussing on architecture, fashion, youth culture and graphics as well as film, photography, product and furniture design and digital media.

### CHINA NOW

Helps primary & secondary schools that are new to working with China, CHINA NOW has produced a PowerPoint presentation for use in class or assembly entitled "Welcome to China". This, along with detailed teacher's notes, can be downloaded from the website.

The presentation is an easy way to introduce China to pupils and should take about 20 minutes to deliver. The presentation can be used on its own or alongside the teacher's resource pack. The resource pack contains a range of easy to use resources, suggested activities (linked to the national curriculum), teacher's notes and sample schemes of work which can be downloaded.

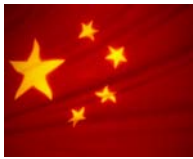
[www.chinanow.org.uk/primaryeducation](http://www.chinanow.org.uk/primaryeducation)  
[www.chinanow.org.uk/secondaryeducation](http://www.chinanow.org.uk/secondaryeducation)

#### Useful websites:

- [www.olympic.org](http://www.olympic.org)
- <http://en.beijing2008.cn/>
- [www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)



# China



## Useful websites:

- [www.chinatoday.com](http://www.chinatoday.com)  
*China information database*
- [www.chinanow.org.uk](http://www.chinanow.org.uk)  
*see education section*

## Fascinating Facts

1. China manufactures more than 70 percent of the world's toys.
2. China produces more than half of all the world's sporting goods.
3. By 2007, there will be more websites written in Chinese than in any other language.
4. China's three most popular surnames—Li, Wang and Zhang—are shared by 270 million Chinese, equal to the entire population of the United States.
5. More than 200 million people in China are studying English. English is a compulsory subject for all Chinese primary school students.
6. Beijing is expanding its National Library to make it the third largest in the world (after the Library of Congress and the British Library) and the biggest in Asia. The National Library was established inside a temple in 1909.
7. More copies of The Quotations of Chairman Mao have been sold than any book except the Bible.
8. Imperial China's achievements include the invention of paper, movable type, the compass, the first ocean-going vessels and gunpowder.
9. The five gold stars on the Chinese flag represent the five major ethnic groups of China. The large gold star symbolizes the Han majority, and the four smaller stars represent the Manchurian, Mongolian, Tibetan, and Muslim ethnic groups. The scarlet field of the flag symbolizes the huge number of lives sacrificed in the Communist revolution.
10. More than 320 million people in China smoke—equal to the smoking population of all developed countries combined.
11. Tobacco accounts for 70 percent of the income of the south western Chinese province of Yunnan.
12. China's biggest box office hit to date is the Hollywood blockbuster Titanic, which took in ¥320 million (US\$38.6 million).
13. There are more than 117 males born in China for every 100 females. Worldwide, the ratio is between 105 and 107 males to 100 females. In some rural areas in China, there are twice as many boys born as girls. Twenty years ago, the male-female birth ratio in China was comparable to the global average.
14. Discrimination in favour of male offspring has greatly increased since the introduction of the one-child policy in 1982. Despite laws banning the practice, many women undergo ultrasound scans and abort the fetus if it is believed to be female.
15. Boys have been traditionally favoured in Chinese families because they carry on the family name, are seen as having greater earning potential and will be able to provide for their parents in old age.
16. The skewed gender ratio means that by 2020, there could be 100 million mainland bachelors.
17. In poverty-stricken rural China, 80 percent of trafficked babies are girls. The rest are boys with a health problem or deformity.
18. China has more than 10,000 orphans, aged 15 and under, who have lost their parents to AIDS.
19. Experts believe the number of HIV sufferers in China exceeds 1.5 million, and the UN says the number could soar to 10 million by 2010 if the government does not do more to contain the disease.
20. Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of death through infection in China, with about 5 million infected people and 130,000 TB deaths each year.
21. Less than 10 percent of high school graduates in China are admitted to a university.
22. The traditional Chinese wedding gift is still cash, stuffed in red envelopes which are discreetly slipped to the couple then counted behind closed doors.
23. China has an average of six policemen for every 10,000 residents, a quarter of the ratio in the United States.

### Rat



1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008

Ambitious and honest but quick to anger. You are talented at making money, but you are generous with it.

### Ox



1961, 1973, 1985, 1997

Bright and easy going but hate to be beaten. You are a hard worker and can think of logical solutions to problems.

### Tiger



1962, 1974, 1986, 1998

Brave and have a strong will, but this can lead you to overdoing things. You are generous and affectionate.

### Rabbit



1963, 1975, 1987, 1999

Lucky and ambitious but sometimes be very shy. You appreciate all beautiful things and you get on well with people.

### Dragon



1964, 1976, 1988, 2000

Stubborn and proud, you are a born leader. You are energetic and strong and will accomplish much in your life.

### Snake



1965, 1977, 1989, 2001

Wise and attractive, you can sometimes be mean. You enjoy the finer aspects of life: books, music, the arts and good food.

### Horse



1966, 1978, 1990, 2002

Clever and cheerful, but you can be impatient. You are attractive to others and like to dress up in fine clothes.

### Ram



1967, 1979, 1991, 2003

Artistic, calm and caring, but you can also be indecisive. You are very kind and generous and are loved by everyone.

### Monkey



1968, 1980, 1992, 2004

Creative and successful, but you can easily be discouraged. You are skilful and can adapt to any challenge.

### Rooster



1969, 1981, 1993, 2005

Very clever and brave, you are born to bounce back. You are entertaining and fun to be with.

### Dog



1970, 1982, 1994, 2006

Honest, loyal and sincere, but you can be stubborn. You are trustworthy and a loyal friend.

### Pig



1971, 1983, 1995, 2007

Very brave and impulsive, you can sometimes act without thinking. You never bear grudges and you will be a friend for life.



# Return of the 'Teddies' . . .

Download an application form for the  
Take Ted Travelling competition for Years 5,6 & 7  
Closing date 17 Oct 08  
[www.millais.co.uk/competitions/applicationform.pdf](http://www.millais.co.uk/competitions/applicationform.pdf)



Following our competition launch for Take Ted Travelling (Feb08) we feel more Teddies or toys deserve the opportunity to travel. The options below could be run as a whole school or class project and with a little organisation, are fun ways for children to learn about the world.

## School Teddies

What you'll need:

- Selection of teddies. There could be several 'explorers' at a time and a few may also go AWOL!
- Large world map in classroom or prominent position in the school
- Could add interactive maps and updates to school's website
- Pins / flags or stickers to track countries visited
- Space around map or photo album to stick Teddies' Holiday snaps & postcards
- Children willing to:
  - include Teddy in family holiday
  - send a postcard to the school
  - return with photographic evidence
  - return Teddy to school ready for next journey

Teddies may also like to accompany classes on school trips too.

## Toy Voyagers

'Little things on big adventures'

ToyVoyagers are toys travelling around the globe using people to help them on their journey. Much like travelling teddies, ToyVoyagers offers a fun way for children & teachers to get toys experiencing the world, either by children independently at home or as a class/school project.

### How it works:

A selected toy has 5 life missions he would like to complete, these might include crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, visit Disney World, ride a camel, see New England in the fall, climb Mount Kilimanjaro etc..

Once the chosen toy is registered by adding a photograph, name, weight, dimensions and description, it can be made available for hosting. People from all over the world will offer to host it. An appropriate itinerary can then be created so that the toy can travel from one country to another. Addresses are exchanged by private email. Alternatively toys with ID tags (purchased from the site), may be left in 'safe' places in the hope of being found, for example a supermarket or library. This is a little risky as ideally you would like the 'finder' to update their Travelog and send them on. Each toy has it's own 'Travelog' so the host can upload information and photos of the toy on it's voyage. The toy can is then forwarded on to the next host or they can be returned home at any time and sent off again. Many toys have quite a detailed itinerary and could be travelling for years. It may take a while for them to complete their life missions, however they have the opportunity to experience the world in the meantime. It is also possible to host travelling toys and allow them to experience a traditional English life-style.

It is great fun to check out the Travelog and see your toys on location all over the world.

A Google map option allows you to plot the longitude/latitude of the toy abroad, view the number of miles travelled and mark the destinations visited.

### To register toys:

You must be 13 years or over to register a toy independently. Mentors under this age can take part but a parent/teacher must register toys for them.

Toys may be registered free of charge or ToyVoyager tags may be purchased which explains who they are, their ID number and web-site address..



# LONDON OLYMPICS 2012



The focus of the London 2012 Games will be the Olympic Park in east London, which will house the new sport venues.

The Park is located in the Lower Lea Valley - an area of great untapped potential.

After the Games the area will be transformed into the largest urban park created in Europe for more than 150 years.

There will be a huge amount of activity up until the Beijing Games in August 2008, to get the site ready for the construction work that will start in earnest in the summer of 2008.

## School Resources

[www.dfes.gov.uk/L2012](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/L2012)

Leaflets aimed at young people of primary and secondary school age, designed to inform pupils about what the games will be like, its impact on the UK, and how they can join in. The leaflets include links to further information and advice on how pupils can get involved in various activities. There is also an email address where teachers or pupils can send in their opinions, ideas or plans

[onyourmarks.london2012.com](http://onyourmarks.london2012.com)

Website includes:   ▪Factsheets           ▪News Items           ▪Pictures           ▪Teaching Ideas

These teaching ideas are split to provide ideas for pupils aged 7-11 and 11-14. They explore themes linked to the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympics and have been developed to support teachers using the resources provided on this site.

They are not meant to be prescriptive: these simple hints and tips have been written by teachers so that they are flexible enough to build into current teaching or develop further, as required. Ideas are cross-curricular where possible and can be adapted to reflect different ways of learning.

[www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk](http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk)

Select:    ***My games: what have they got to do with me***

This lesson considers the Games on a personal **scale**; the use of images of young people, from around the world, being inspired by sport in the vision that secured London's bid for the 2012 games. Students think about the **spaces** in which they currently do physical activity and whether the Games is important to them and other young people in the UK.



## WORLD BOOK DAY ANTHOLOGY

*Why were her toes like that....?  
is now available*

Waterstones Bookshops  
£2.99

This book features an anthology featuring twelve winning stories from the World Book Day 2008 Short Story competition. Six well-known children's authors (including Jacqueline Wilson, Malorie Blackman, Charlie Higson, Michael Rosen), wrote the first line of a story and the children wrote their own short stories from there.



World Book Day, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, is the UK's largest celebration of books and reading. This new initiative gave children a unique chance to experience being published authors and illustrators themselves, and provided another exciting and creative way for schools to engage with World Book Day.



## FAIRTRADE UPDATE



Run a Fairtrade Stall at your school. . .

Shared Earth™ develops products with more than 30 producers across the world. Their aim is to improve the livelihoods of disadvantaged people in developing countries, benefiting local community projects and keeping alive traditional skills that would otherwise be lost. Purchase a range of their products online and get selling! [www.sharedearth.co.uk](http://www.sharedearth.co.uk)



Tate & Lyle moves to Fairtrade

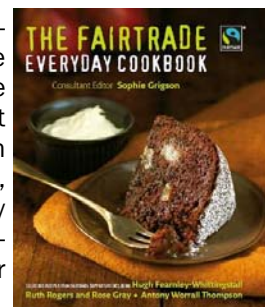
Tate & Lyle announced in Feb08, its ambition to move its entire retail cane sugars range to Fairtrade, marking the largest ever switch to the ethical labelling scheme by any major UK food or drink brand.

Tate & Lyle believe in a fair deal for everyone, so are making sure their entire retail cane sugar range is 100% Fairtrade. This means sugar cane farmers will receive a Fairtrade Premium for their crop.

Granulated white cane sugar will be the brand's first Fairtrade product but it says it expects its entire retail range to follow by the end of 2009.

[www.tasteandsmile-fairtrade.co.uk](http://www.tasteandsmile-fairtrade.co.uk)

A mouth-watering cookbook of fantastic Fairtrade recipes, each featuring the most important ingredient of all: they are made with produce that is seeded, nurtured and provided by farmers and suppliers getting a better, fairer deal for their work.



Cook up over 100 mouth-watering 'Light Bites' snacks, 'Fill Me Up' main courses, and 'Guilty Pleasures' sweet dishes using Fairtrade ingredients. Recipes are a combination of prize-winners from a nationwide competition with the Fairtrade Foundation and Sainsbury's Magazine and recipes from a host of top cooks, stars and celebrities; including Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Sophie Grigson, Joanne Harris, Steve Redgrave and Ruth Roger.

For every Fairtrade Cookbook sold a portion of the cover price will be donated to Fairtrade.

[www.dorlingkindersley-uk.co.uk](http://www.dorlingkindersley-uk.co.uk)



17-21 NOVEMBER 2008



International Education Week (IEW) is an excellent opportunity to show the world how being internationally minded has benefited your school. All levels of education across England are being encouraged to join in the celebrations. If you are planning any events related to your international activities for the Autumn, consider holding them between 17 - 21 November so that the whole country can celebrate together.

Need inspiration? Some of the events which took place during IEW 2007:

a visit by a Russian space expert and a cosmonaut to schools across Bedfordshire giving talks about their experiences

international video-conferences

a series of workshops with a Jamaican musician and storyteller

international days including students wearing their traditional national costume, playing international music, dancing, cooking traditional food, folk art and crafts, language events, and drama skits

language-speaking competitions

a group of school footballers from Le Havre visiting a school in England to participate in a range of international sports-based activities



### Foundation Level

There are 3 levels in this award; Foundation, Intermediate and the full ISA. Many schools do not realise they are already eligible for the Foundation stage and may even be at the Intermediate level.

Register your school with the Global Gateway website and follow just 5 easy steps on-line to see if your school can gain the ISA Foundation stage. You only have to wait 2 weeks to find out if you're successful!



## Forthcoming events:

### Internationalism across the curriculum

Friday 4 July 2008  
NEAPC –Crawley  
1.30-4pm

Suitable for any teachers interested in finding ways of promoting internationalism across the curriculum. This would be of particular interest to any teacher who has responsibility of gaining the ISA for their school. For further info contact: Rachel Dawson [rdawson@wsqfi.org.uk](mailto:rdawson@wsqfi.org.uk) 01403 254932 x274

Standard inset rates apply

To book a place contact: Business Administration Unit (BAU) 01243 777069.

### French Fest



This 3 day event takes place in Horsham Town Centre. Encourage pupils to practise their French with the French stall-holders—and they may be given a 'Parlez Francais' badge.

Look out for the French themed competition to be launched in the West Sussex County Times.





## Introducing MFL at Key stage 1

How Southwater Infant School incorporated MFL at Key Stage 1 and achieved the intermediate level of the International Schools Award. By Christie Carvalho

### Where we were 2 years ago?

No official language teaching was taking place in school. One or two teachers taught their class to answer the register in another language.

### Our first year

- We opened our MFL teaching with a European Day of Languages. Ideas and activities on [CILT.org.uk](http://CILT.org.uk) website
- We began the day with a continental breakfast for parents and children. Each class in each year group was themed to a different European country. The children in each year group rotated around the year group, visiting each 'country' during the day. They sampled language, food and traditions from that country
- Having fired up the children's (and parent's!) enthusiasm, we then began our MFL lessons. In Year 2 the children are taught either Dutch, German or Italian. The lessons involve simple language, repeated often, and where possible linked in with the topic theme.
- Why cross curricular? Making language fit in with other curriculum areas helps overcome the problem of timetabling. We try to teach a 20 minute session once a week to our class, but if time doesn't allow this, we can always fit it in with another curriculum area. This is essential in an Infant School, where language teaching is not compulsory.
- Why any language? The class teacher is most likely to be doing the language teaching. Confidence levels are likely to be quite low when speaking another language, especially a language the teacher has never used before. Allowing the teacher to select a language in which they are most confident means that language teaching is more likely to take place.

### Why Introduce MFL?

- To raise the global awareness of our children
- To develop the aspect of creativity in our curriculum
- To give children a chance to experience languages without self-consciousness
- To compliment the use of phonics and sounds in our curriculum

### Where to next?

- Medium term plans written for Year 1 and Summer Term in Foundation Stage
- Develop links with partner schools - hopefully leading to a Comenius project
- Visit partner school/schools
- Encourage involvement of more staff into the use of international links
- Develop links with KS2 school and secondary schools in the area
- Apply for full International School Award for the Year 2008/2009
- Ensure sustainability. Movement of staff could lead to a shortage of language skills in some Year groups, so up skilling all staff is very important.
- Continue to support colleagues and help with language needs

### Useful pointers

- Be enthusiastic and encouraging
- Do be aware of the fear some people feel about speaking in another language teachers or children?
- Be resourceful - there are very few KS1 specific resources available commercially. Utilize number fans, dice, picture flashcards, big books etc good advice!
- Offer demonstration lessons for colleagues to come and watch. If you make it look do-able and achievable it becomes less daunting
- Be flexible, especially when it comes to timetabling
- Take it slowly. Allow colleagues to start small and build up gradually.

**International Projects** Our school is currently involved in two European projects, one with Italy and one with Greece. Our partner school is the Italian School. We have shared presentations about our school and local area and Christmas traditions. We sent a teddy to Italy, called Edward, and in return we received a doll called Marcia. The aim is to take the toys around with us and use photographs and short pieces of writing to send to the other school to say what the toy has been doing. We have an etwinning project about overcoming fear through understanding. For this we have shared ideas about what fear means to us, and we have written a story which is a combination of an English and an Italian story about overcoming fear. The children in each school will act this out and record it to send to each other. We also have an etwinning project with Greece looking at the environmental issues facing our planet and what we can do to help.





# Camelsdale First School

## Report of Camelsdale First School's Trip to Burgos / Spain 26<sup>th</sup> February - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007

### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007 - Take Off!

Today, six Year 4 pupils, Flora, Ben, Kier, Rachael, Alex and Charlotte went to Spain for four days, accompanied by Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Glue. The reason we went to Spain was to visit our International Link School in Burgos called Jueces de Castilla. This friendship started in 2004 when Mrs. Glue went to Madrid to make a link with a Spanish school. Two teachers from Burgos came to Camelsdale School in Spring 2005. So the aim of this visit was to make this link stronger and for pupils to actually go and meet our Spanish friends and to learn about their school and their way of life. We have been learning Spanish at Camelsdale since September, so we hope we can practice our Spanish as well!

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Meeting our new friends and finding out about Burgos.

We took part in the school's first ever assembly. The choir sang and welcomed us in English. The rest of the morning we visited some of the classes and we learnt about El Cid, a very famous Spanish hero. Playtime wasn't until 11.45am and the children taught us some Spanish games - frog and handkerchief. At 1.00pm we walked to Al Campo for lunch at Picassos where Helen had booked a table for us. We had a selection of paella, pasta. In the afternoon, the headteacher, Carlos (in Spain the children call their teachers by their first names) took us by bus to the centre of Burgos. We went on a long walk following the El Cid route, and saw where his house was and the cathedral where he is buried.

### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February - Happy Birthday Day

It was Charlotte's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday. Charlotte opened up her presents from her family. We had same breakfast as yesterday and we walked to school. In one Class, they sang "Happy Birthday" to Charlotte in Spanish...it was the same tune just different words. We tasted potato tortilla with chocolate spread or tomato sauce. Later in the afternoon we went by cars to Burgos Castle. The view from the castle was amazing, beautiful, and extravagant! We then went to the Carthusian Monastery of Miraflores which is home to some monks who have taken a vow of silence and do not speak.

### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March - The Return of the Year 4s

Today we had to get up really early. We had a packed breakfast - more sponge cakes and an orange and milk drink. We hit Madrid at rush hour - 9am. Madrid airport was not as big as Gatwick.

### What have we learnt from this trip?

**Flora** - "I learnt a lot about similarities and differences between Spain and England, eg: cars drive on the other side of the road, but we both have the "green man" at the crossings."

**Alex** - "I learnt all about El Cid and what a hero he was."

**Rachael** - "I learnt a lot about Spanish schools eg: their timetable is different."

**Charlotte** - "Camelsdale and Burgos are very different, but they are different in good ways, eg: if Burgos and Camelsdale were the same it wouldn't be very exciting to visit each other."

**Keir** - "I learnt about the culture of Spain. I increased my knowledge of speaking Spanish and how airports work."

**Ben** - "I learnt that the school day is different and that they play similar games. There are slight differences in the games but all children like playing games. "

Overall, we feel we should definitely keep the link going. We liked the idea of putting signs up in Spanish and English around the school. We liked the recycled books they had made. We were pleased to be part of their very first assembly. We liked the games they taught us and all the things they made for us or gave us. We now want to invite our Burgos friends over to our school for a visit. It is good to have a real life link...it makes it all real. We want to show them Camelsdale and how lovely Sussex/England is. We want them to help us with our Spanish. We want to teach them all about English school life and to show them how we do things and the games we play. We want to make them feel welcome. They made us feel so welcome. It was a brilliant trip.





By Anne Fenton

## TIPD Visit to Castlefranco , Veneto, Italy



The following report summarises a visit by a group of 8 teachers teaching in infant, primary, junior, secondary and special educational establishments in West Sussex and an education adviser. The group members have been teaching between 3 and 20 years. The group were also accompanied by Fred bear – the class bear from a year 3 group. One of the aims of the visit was to expand global citizenship especially in areas beyond Europe and to develop group's contacts with other schools.

### Report of the Experience

Compulsory education does not begin until children are 6 years of age. At the age of 14 young people in Italy make an open choice to attend an academic or vocational college, they remain there for between 3 and 5 years when they attend Higher Education or enter employment.

In most visits the group visited classrooms together and the work of the students was presented to them either by the students or by the teachers. In the institutes the older students were able to communicate in English and in the intermediate school students talked willingly and confidently about their work.

The theme of creativity was expressed in a variety of ways by the teachers we visited.

The group also enjoyed the culture and hospitality of the region visiting Venice, Padova, Treviso as well as Castlefranco

In most cases the school day begins between 8.00 and 9.15 and many children attend for the morning only, finishing at 1.30.

In two schools students presented their work in English with confidence and accuracy as well as passion.

### The impact of the visit on individual classrooms

All members of the party were able to identify an appropriate institution with which to set up a link and information was exchanged to enable this.

### Evaluation

Despite the group's disappointment at visiting a country within the EU when they had hoped to set up links beyond Europe as part of their global dimension the group found the visit a success in all other areas.

The group recognised the long term nature of education and their responsibility to make whatever change is possible through involving parents and through giving a real purpose for young people's learning.

### Conclusion

The visit was an overwhelming success in a number of ways;

Members of the party had the time to reflect upon their own practice through comparisons with the Italian educational system and with other members representing different schools within the group.

Teachers in Italian schools received information about the English education system.



## **International work in your school...**

Please send details of international work, links and projects in your school to include in the next publication and on the WSGFL.

Rachel Dawson  
rdawson@wsgfl.org.uk

Next publication : Oct 2008

Previous publications please see: <http://wsgfl.westsussex.gov.uk>

