



Link Schools Programme News

November 2009

In this issue

- News and events
 - LCD Scotland updates
 - Rights and Responsibilities
 - 2009/10 mailing dates
 - New Link School
- Resources
 - TALULAR activity
 - Reducing, recycling and reusing activities
 - DGSP online course

Dear Link School Co-ordinator,

We are pleased to be able to bring you the autumn term edition of the Link Schools newsletter. In it you will find LCD news and updates, resources and activities for you to take forward with your partner school. If you missed the last mailing, you have plenty of time to prepare for the next mailing in January 2010.



News and Events

LCD Scotland updates

Catherine McKenna has accepted an exciting new post with LCD International managing the 3 year 'Partners in Development' project which we recently won funding for from the EU. The project aims to improve the Link Schools Programme. We wish Catherine every success in her new post. Monica Dearden will take over Catherine's role at LCD Scotland, and we are also pleased to welcome Kate Armstrong, who will work as an additional Programme Officer supporting the Global Teachers Programme from mid November.

Link Schools Programme mailing dates:

Below are the dates for sending mail to your partner school in Africa.

Spring term 2010:

Scotland – Africa - 29 January 2010

Africa – Scotland - 5 March 2010

Joint curricular activity - 25 March 2010

Summer term 2010:

Scotland – Africa - 7 May 2010

Africa - Scotland - 4 June 2010



For more information and guidance on mailing dates refer to section 2 of your Link Schools pack.

'Rights and Responsibilities' - Joint curricular activity March 2010

LCD's joint annual curricular activity has now been launched. Focusing on rights and responsibilities, the activity will encourage partner schools to work together to research, identify and compare their rights and responsibilities. It will also help your school to draw up a whole school rights and responsibilities charter. For more details see attachment.

Please send resources you have created, research and information your pupils have developed to Link Community Development by **25th March 2010**. You will receive your partner school's list of rights back together with the results of their lesson on rights by the beginning of **May 2010**.



Partnership Agreements

New Link Schools who have set up a Partnership Agreement within the past 3 months should send a copy of the document by email to louise@lcd.org.uk as soon as possible. We will be happy to forward it to our colleagues in the programme countries who will transfer it to your Link School to speed up the communication. If you need help with setting up a Partnership Agreement please contact us on 0131 243 2685.

New Link School

Following Heather Ferguson's visit to the Uganda School Improvement Project this summer as part of the SCIPD programme, Livingston Village Primary School in West Lothian has linked with Kiryandongo Primary School in the Masindi district of Uganda and have sent their first parcel last week.

If any of your cluster schools are interested in forming a link with an African school, please put them in touch with louise@lcd.org.uk who will be happy to tell them more.



International news

DFID Permanent Secretary visits an LCD Malawi project school

As part of a 2-day visit to Malawi in September 2009, the UK DFID Permanent Secretary visited Chilamba Primary School in Dedza to learn how LCD Malawi has implemented a pilot project to channel funds directly to primary schools. Through the 'Enhanced Direct Support to Schools' pilot, LCD Malawi and the Dedza District Education Office are leading the way to developing a new framework for primary school funding in Malawi. On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and with funding from DFID, LCD Malawi has trained schools and communities in planning, budgeting, financial management and accountability systems to build capacity at a school level to manage and allocate funds.

Funding confirmed for a new project in Uganda

LCD England and Wales are delighted to have recently received funding for a new 3 year project supporting internally displaced communities in Katakwi, Uganda. The grant of £248,664 will help them to support communities displaced by conflict over the past 20 years to resettle by strengthening schools' ability to provide good quality education. Activities will involve training teachers on subjects including counselling skills and health education as well as working with the wider community, through establishing school gardens. They expect this project to have an impact on school enrolment rates, particularly encouraging girls to go to school, completion rates, pass rates and on community stabilisation in areas of resettlement.

To read more international news visit our website

www.lcdinternational.org/lcd_international/News.htm

Resources

Are you stuck for ideas for projects to do together with your Link School? Help is at hand in the form of a great TALULAR activity and a list of activity ideas on reducing, reusing and recycling which are attached to this newsletter.

1. TALULAR – Teaching and Learning Using Locally Available Resources

A lack of Government funding for schools in many African countries, especially rural schools, means that schools do not have budgets to buy teaching and learning resources to use in class. As a result schools have to create teaching and learning materials using locally available or recycled resources, for example making their own toys and games, counting apparatus and alternatives to pens and paper. The activity below will allow pupils in this country to experience how they could cope without access to some every day resources that they take for granted.

What to consider:

- Why are we making our own resources and materials? Highlight the importance of recycling in Scotland, the lack of resources, access to

every day resources that they take for granted.

What to consider:

- Why are we making our own resources and materials? Highlight the importance of recycling in Scotland, the lack of resources, access to resources and funding at your partner school, and consider what's the impact of this on the quality of education pupils in both countries receive?
- The curriculum in African countries is changing and teachers are working to incorporate new participatory methods being introduced into their teaching. This activity can help support teachers to do this.
- Follow up activity: you may want to send a disposable camera to your partner school so you can see the results.



What to do

1. Ask pupils in both partner schools to make objects e.g. toys, footballs, games from recycled materials; alternatively ask them how they would teach someone how to count or write using every day household materials.
2. Then get pupils to write up a 'How To' guide using photos to send to their partner school as a lesson plan on TALULAR. This will support active teaching methodologies to help teachers in Link Schools to improve their teaching.
3. Develop the idea for the project together and share the teaching methodologies which involve pupils and results with your colleagues in your Link School.

2. Caring for the environment – Reducing, Reusing and Recycling’ – joint project ideas

Joan Nadeau, former Global Teacher and Link School co-ordinator at Juniper Green Primary School in Edinburgh has put together some activities on the environment for you to do together with your Link School such as looking at water use and the availability of clean water throughout the world, finding out what's recycled at school or debating reducing vs recycling. You will find the full list of activities in an attachment to this email together with the corresponding CfE experiences, outcomes and further resources to support the activities.

3. Introduction to Global School Partnerships - Online Course

The DGSP Online Course provides an outline of the principles and practices of global dimension learning partnerships between schools in the UK and schools in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. It will enable you to:

- Explore the contribution that a global dimension can make to school curricula; and ethos and how a school partnership can enhance this
- Consider the practicalities of developing a new partnership;
- Decide whether this kind of partnership is right for you and your school;

Access the course here: www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools-onlinecourse.

International School Award Success for Boghall Primary School

On 16th October Boghall Primary School, West Lothian which is linked with Nthulu Primary School in Malawi was awarded the International School Award in recognition of bringing the wider world into the classroom.

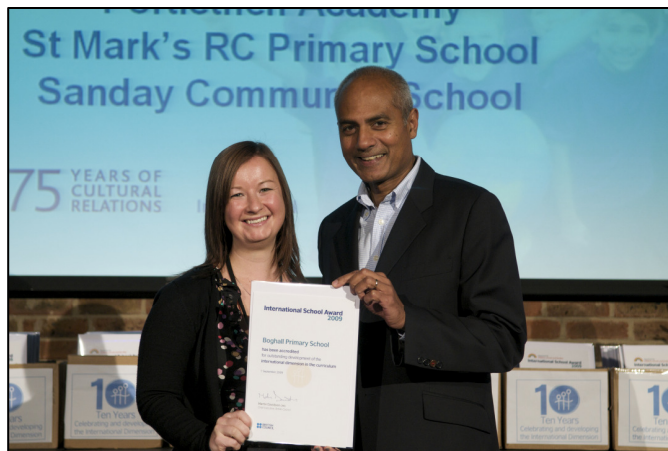
Lee Buchanan, the Link Co-ordinator from Boghall Primary School, and former Global Teacher, attended a ceremony in London that recognised their outstanding work, and the winners were presented their awards by broadcaster George Alagiah.

Lee Buchanan said; "All the staff and pupils were involved and worked hard to achieve this award and are all delighted and very proud of their achievement."

The DCSF International School Award seeks to celebrate, recognise and accredit outstanding practice in the international dimensions of teaching and learning. Boghall Primary received the award and their International Education flag. They have been accredited for the next 3 years and will continue to embed and develop International Education in the school curriculum through their links to Malawi, Texas, learning French, Chinese and various other activities.

John Rolfe, Manager, DCSF International School Award said 'Many congratulations and many thanks on your well-deserved success in being accredited with the award. The rich range of work you are doing in the school and across your larger community to support and encourage global citizens with a greater understanding of the world around them is truly fantastic.'

To find out more about applying for an award for the International Education work which you are carrying out in your school go to www.britishcouncil.org/learning-international-school-award.htm.



Contact us: 0131 243 2685 scotland@lcd.org.uk www.lcdinternational.org
