



Blackburn The Redeemer
Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School

25th February 2009

My name is Mark Power and I am the Deputy Head Teacher at Blackburn the Redeemer C.E. Primary School with responsibility for the development of ICT within the school. In November 2008 we were awarded the prestigious title of best whole school award in the UK at the National Becta excellence awards.

After winning the award I contacted a few well recognised ICT companies to look at ways that we, as a school could develop our use of ICT even further. One company that I contacted was Selwyn Electronics who noted our desire to develop still further ICT. They kindly sent me two of their products to try, a 'DigiMemo' and a 'Duo'.

The DigiMemo is a fantastic resource for sharing written work with a group, or the whole class. You simply write upon normal paper with the electronic pad underneath and when you are ready, you can transfer the handwritten text to a PC, or Interactive whiteboard (IWB). Then that handwritten text can be discussed, highlighted and analysed, and even converted to text and then edited.

At present I have classroom responsibility for year 6 children. As a year 6 teacher I am particularly interested in the children working collaboratively and sharing ideas and thoughts together. Using the DigiMemo in class easily allows me to do this. Key errors that children make can be shown on the IWB, discussed and then corrected. This may not seem like a huge thing, but, because it is the children's actual work, it becomes real for them, it is their work. There is a real sense of belonging to the work rather than it being a clinical piece of typed text.

The DigiMemo is also excellent for collaborative story writing and poetry writing. During a lesson I have sent the DigiMemo around the room collecting the children's 'best bits' to add to a poem or story. These best bits are collected and shared through the IWB. These then act as the basis of the poem or story for the next lesson. The children are really keen and enthusiastic about the writing because they have all contributed to the text.

The second device that we have used is the 'Duo'.

The Duo connects simply to a laptop or flat screen monitor and then turns that flat screen into a touch screen monitor. At present we are using the Duo in Foundation Stage with children aged 4 and 5. The children here already have good ICT skills, but at times lack the actual coordination to move around a monitor. However with the Duo converting the screen to a touch screen the

children are easily able to negotiate the PC. Their lack of coordination no longer hindering their ICT skill development. I think it would be fair to say that children in the Foundation Stage are naturally enthusiastic about ICT. Using the Duo definitely does allow easier access to the negotiating of a PC and so the children are visibly even more enthusiastic.

As a school we have definitely benefited from using both of these products and would like to thank Selwyn Electronics for allowing us to use them.

Mark Power

Initial Contact:

1st December 2008

My name is Mark Power and I am the Deputy Head teacher and ICT coordinator at Blackburn the Redeemer C.E. Primary School. On the 6th November 2008 at the Becta ICT Excellence awards we were awarded best school in the North West for ICT and Best overall school in the entire U.K.

Since then we've been asked to sit on the Excellence ICT forum for Becta, DCSF NAACE etc and take part in the Learning and Technology World forum to recommend ways forward for schools with technology, software etc.

As a leading school in ICT and one that wants to keep developing I was wondering if it would be possible for us to use a number of your key products or are there any latest technologies that we could trial for you. It would mean that we would be able to continue developing in our role as a lead school in the UK for ICT usage.