



Ranvilles Infant School



CASE STUDY

Ranvilles Infant School in Hampshire has been using Fronter's Open Learning Platform for two and a half years, and is at the forefront of ICT use with younger learners.

The Fronter learning platform allows the pupils at Ranvilles to have their own online e-portfolio, share opinions through book reviews and discussion forums, set each other online challenges, work individually or as part of a group, and learn at their own pace, wherever and whenever they like.



Ranvilles uses the Fronter learning platform to connect the whole school community involving not only the teachers and children, but parents too. Many of the children's parents are in the Royal Navy, so the learning platform enables progress tracking and answering questions while they are away onboard ship. This has even been translated into a geography project for the children. Parents are also encouraged to contribute ideas through the online message boards.



“We were able to put geography into context by tracking the ships' movements on large maps, and the school community found itself in a new and wonderful position, supporting its wider community,” said Deputy Head John Whitmore.

Ranvilles Infant School has been widely recognised for its innovative approach to learning. Ranvilles recently received the 2007 ICT Excellence Award for Extended Learning Opportunities in a primary school as well as many other prestigious awards including the UNICEF Level 2 ‘Rights Respecting School Award’, the ICT Register Mark, as well as the Arts Council ‘Gold’ Arts Mark.

Following the school's success, head teacher Wendy Collins and the lead ICT teacher, were also invited to present at a conference in Germany to show representatives from schools across Europe how the Fronter learning platform has enhanced teaching and learning.

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Deputy Head
Ranvilles Infant School

How was Fronter implemented?

Initially two teachers were chosen as administrator and lead teacher. Training was provided by Fronter consultants, both in school and at other venues to allow them to get to grips with the system and tools. The learning platform was then first implemented into two year one classes.

“We used the forums to develop conversations between children asking open ended questions with no right or wrong answers, for example: ‘what is your favourite colour and why?’ We were easily able to use Fronter to link to offsite resources, mainly from web sites,” added John Whitmore.

Ranvilles Infant School pupil Elizabeth, who has had firsthand experience of learning through the platform commented: “It has lots of fun games to help us learn. It’s like a learning genius.”

During the next year the school developed rooms for each year group, including an art room, displaying photos of art from around the school and links to art web pages, a book club room, a maths room for shared resources, a curriculum resources room, a school council room, and various topic rooms and a planning and delivery storage room.

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ICT teacher: “The Fronter platform has been of great benefit to not only the children but the staff too. Fronter allows teachers to use a greater number of icons and pictures, as well as podcasting to help children learn and access resources in a variety ways, which is particularly beneficial to those who struggle with reading. We as staff can also use the platform to upload notes from meetings and share lesson plans.”

Ranvilles wants to continue its extension into the wider community and carry on enhancing and enriching learning. John Whitmore believes that: “the Fronter learning platform has enabled us to truly understand the word 'collaboration', and that the use of a platform is an exciting tool to develop this learning attitude.”



2007 ICT Award Ceremony: (left to right) Stephen Crowne (Becta's Chief Executive), and Ranvilles staff - Wendy Collins (Head teacher), Fiona Aubery- Smith (ICT lead teacher), Julie Ward (Learning Assistant), Moragh Turner (Learning Assistant), Stacey Barnes (Early Years Manager), John Whitmore (then Deputy Head teacher, now Fronter UK).