

Diary Reminders

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| Deadline for Summer requests | Tues 6th April 2010 |
| Spring Collections | 18 - 29th March 2010 |
| Summer Deliveries | 19 - 29th April 2010 |
| Summer Collections | 9 - 21st July 2010 |
| Deadline for Autumn requests | Mon 16th August 2010 |

'Thank You'

Many thanks to all those teachers – always the great majority – who get their resources back to us on time and in the right boxes. As for the others – well, we do hear some stories.....

"We cleared out our store room and nobody noticed the labels, so we put the box and contents in the skip"

"Sorry, the front of your display case had a particularly attractive grain and got sawn up for a D&T lesson"

"Sorry, your box was reduced to splinters by an axe" (apparently this happened as part of a school drama!)

"Sorry this box is so overdue. It has been in the back of Ms X's (a teacher's) car for the last eight weeks. She says she meant to bring it back to you personally!"

"Sorry – your cash register (from an early years collection) was sold to an eager parent at our Christmas bazaar!"

.....and so on and so forth!

Thanks must also go to all school admin staff who tirelessly relay reminders and messages. Like us, they know the names of the naughty teachers!

PS: If you realise you've lost or forgotten to return something, please call and let us know. Then we can sort out what to do for the teacher who wanted the item next.

Framed Pictures

WSLR holds a large and varied collection of framed pictures – about 500 items in all. The majority are artists' prints, but there are many watercolours, collages, pencil and pen drawings too.

Bev Kenyon, Head Teacher at Walwayne Court School, Trowbridge, is an ardent borrower. She says:

"We make use of the pictures from the Resource Centre for several reasons:

"Our children get the chance to see 'real art' around the school, which stimulates their imagination. We use the pictures to encourage questions about artists and their subjects. The different media show how art can take many forms and serve to raise the aspirations of our young artists.

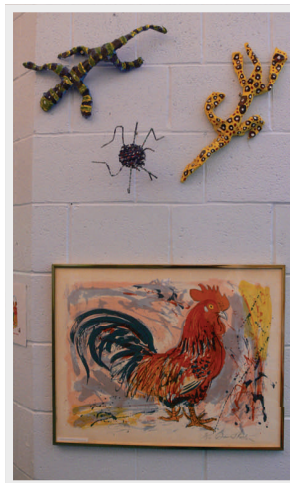
"Staff too deserve the best and the whole atmosphere of the school is influenced by the artwork. Every term, we change the art displayed all around the school including those in the staff areas.

"It is important to us that we show our appreciation for the contributions of artists in our lives. All of the art we display raises the profile of artists and makes art come alive for our children.

"The collection of art work held by the Resource Centre is of excellent quality. I could not imagine running our school without having access to such a wonderful resource."

Bev visits us at WSLR to choose her pictures personally and you are very welcome to visit us too – but please ring to make an appointment first. Alternatively, if we are just too far away you can make your selection from our website. All the pictures are there, each illustrated with a small photo with its size given, and you can choose by subject or medium if you wish. So we hope you too will want to start enjoying a selection in your school soon!

For more information or assistance, ring John or Philip on 01225 713746



WSLR Team Visits to Schools

Since last summer we've been invited to join in a number of individual school staff gatherings and head teachers' cluster meetings, in both Wiltshire and Swindon. So far our small presentation team has enjoyed engaging with colleagues from nearly 40 schools at 14 different venues.

Using a short presentation, plus discussion and Q&A, we've been able to convey to users and non-users alike an up-to-date picture of everything WSLR offers schools and of how we work these days, with a firm emphasis on prompt, efficient and friendly service – and, in turn, our audiences have fed us some invaluable ideas and interesting requests.

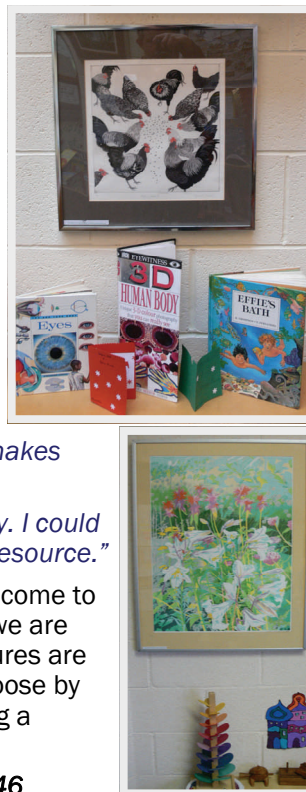
We've been exploring, too, some of our current and forthcoming resource developments: from multi-media MFL to new collections for Early Years; our work on creating and offering a range of original on-line resources; our resources for use on interactive whiteboards; and potential ways of responding to changing needs in the forthcoming "creative curriculum" era.

As always, whenever we meet with a group of teachers, they have been amazed at the range, quality and relevance of everything available. We too have been thrilled to be joined by some new member schools – and still others have gone away determined to make better use of our resources and their school's subscription.

So – if your school or cluster group would also like to meet with us in this way, we'll be delighted to meet you too! Just let us know on 01225 713748, and we'll confirm arrangements and look forward to seeing you.

"We had a boy dressed up in all your Roman armour today. Great fun, and looked terrific!"
Sally Matthews, Pinewood School

"Thank you for all your fantastic resources. They just seem to keep improving every year."
Lyn Hogg
Nursteed Community Primary School



Wiltshire & Swindon Learning Resources

Newsletter

No: 9 Spring 2010

Wiltshire & Swindon
Learning Resources

Wiltshire Council Swindon Borough Council

Please distribute to:

Head Teacher Literacy Co-ordinator ALL Teachers Librarian Staff Room

NEW Multi-Media Resource Collections

We are very pleased to announce the launching of our brand new multi-media resource collections – specially created after many months of consultations with teachers, advisers and others in various forums.



Each collection is designed to capture the interest of pupils throughout key stages 1 and 2 and is filled with books (fiction and non-fiction,) puppets, soft toys, activities, CDs of sound effects, music and songs plus DVDs of film clips, full length films, guidance to useful websites, teacher notes, photographs and more, including our own **interactive whiteboard activities**, designed and created in-house here at WSLR!

Our new multi-media collections provide the key to a multitude of rich and vibrant teaching and learning opportunities. Each one is carefully structured to help support different styles of learning, promote creativity and support cross-curricular teaching.

New multi-media collections, available to order now for Summer 2010:

Four different **MFL French** collections:

Shopping (MM 2006)

Colours (MM 2007),

Days of the Week (MM 2008)

On Holiday (MM 2009)

and **Monsters*** (MM 2005) to support and encourage reading and writing.

*The **Monsters** multi-media resource collection is made available with funds from the Primary National Strategy programme, and thus is available for borrowing by **ALL schools in Wiltshire** (WSLR non-members and members) and by all non-Wiltshire member schools. Look out for the leaflets in your school (already sent to your Literacy Co-ordinator) with details of how to borrow, or find the order form on our website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wslr.



2010 Author Event

Come and meet, listen and talk to...

Jeremy STRONG

Jeremy Strong's work is characterised by humour and direct child appeal. He tells us his writing has been influenced most

of all by falling on his head when he was three, eating doughnuts – and Spike Milligan! His best selling books have served to get many young children reading for sheer pleasure, especially boys, and he travels worldwide encouraging reading, writing and lots of laughter.

Jeremy believes comedy is a 'strong magnet for getting children into reading'. He says his own 'sense of humour got stuck at age ten' and that his writing is 'unashamedly escapist and, I hope, uplifting'. Jeremy's previous jobs have included being a Teacher and Head Teacher, a Caretaker, Strawberry Picker and a Jam Doughnut Stuffer (yes really!)

We are delighted to confirm that Jeremy Strong is our author for WSLR's 2010 Event. We are holding events in Swindon (25th May) and Devizes (26th May) this year – just after the end of SATs and before schools break up! Tickets cost £2.00 each and numbers are limited, so do please book early. Contact us on 01225 713748 to reserve your seats.

'Piracy on the high streets leads to a glorious sequence of mad misunderstandings and domestic catastrophes' The Independent, on **Indoor Pirates**

'The slapstick comedy and parental retribution are wittily handled' Sunday Times, on **The Hundred-Mile-an-Hour-Dog**

'Jeremy Strong's comic tale crackles with good humour and invention' TES, on **Lightning Lucy**

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New from VISUAL RESOURCES

We constantly keep a close eye on teacher's requests to ensure we have enough resources to go round and in recent months, to meet demand, we have created additional collections to cover Judaism, India, Victorian Childhood and World War 2 Evacuees. There have also been many new additions, of which we describe just six below:

Home Front Artefacts Collection – H40139

With resources for World War 2 topics so much in demand, we have produced ten new artefact collections covering the 'Home Front', each containing original household items and clothing from the period, a food ration display, some government posters, newspaper extracts and much more, all with an emphasis on wartime life and its impact on women and children in particular.

Roman Dressing up Armour Collection – H40411

Now, to enliven their studies of the Romans and their times, pupils can experience what it feels like to be a Roman legionnaire with authentic looking tunic, body and shoulder armour, plumed helmet and hob nailed boots.

Wiltshire Quiz – A00163

We have produced a fun quiz all about our own county, which has already proved popular with schools. Each pack contains colour photographs of some of the main Wiltshire towns and notable places of interest. These are also accompanied by a brief history, and notes on each place which gradually reveal their identity.

D & T Development Collections



We have also created some fascinating collections of original artefacts to give pupils an insight into product design and technological development over the last 200 years. The collections cover **laundry irons** (S50088), **hot water bottles** (S50089), **cameras** (S50093) and **telephones** (S50087) from early Victorian times right through to the latter part of the twentieth century.

A00334 – Storytelling Props



What does the message in the bottle say? Who owns the tiny chair and basket? What's in the suitcase and where has it been? What secret power does the mask possess? Who does the shoe belong to? What can you hear in the shell? What's going on in the pictures? Where do the jewels come from? Just lots of props, artefacts and pictures to inspire creative and imaginative storytelling.

A00327 – Forest Storytelling Collection



Sage the elf loves telling stories about her/his (we're not sure!) woodland home and animal friends. The collection includes a large hand puppet, woodland animal finger puppets, a section of a tree trunk for investigating the rings, word leaves, pine cones, collecting bag, pictures and lots of ideas for starting wonderful and creative stories based around the woodland folk!

New from AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCES

As described in our last edition, the A-V section has recently undergone some significant changes, which we hope will have already had a positive impact on you and your school. But we're not stopping there! There are plenty of exciting ideas and projects in the pipeline so watch out for more details in our publications and on the website.

Meanwhile, we continue beavering away recording, editing and cataloguing all the relevant and innovative new titles that we think you will ever need. Our recent additions include those illustrated below.

Key stage 1

TD1097: Poetry Pie

Poetry Pie brings to life poems by well-known contemporary poets. The animated cast of creatures act, sing and dance along to the words of each poem.



TD2190: Nina and The Neurons

Nina and The Neurons introduce children to a basic understanding of science and the world around them. The 5 sense Neurons join Nina on a fun journey of exploration as they answer questions put to them by KS 1 "experimenter" children.



TD2188: 3rd and Bird

3rd & Bird is a vibrant animated series about a community of birds that live, learn and play in the branches of a beautiful old tree. The treetop world of 3rd & Bird is alive with singing, whistling and dancing. 3rd & Bird help teach children the value of being active members of their community.



Key stage 2

TD2169: Prove It!

Prove It! is the ultimate investigative experience! The presenters go to the ends of the earth in pursuit of evidence to enable them to answer tricky questions by focusing on the illustration of scientific facts.



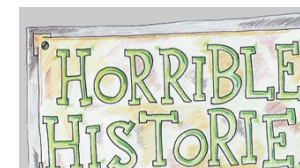
TD2175: Deadly 60

Wildlife presenter Steve Backshall is on a quest to find 60 of the deadliest animals on the planet. Join him as he travels to Australia, India, South Africa, and Malaysia, to name but a few.



TD1083: Horrible Histories

Horrible Histories is a historical sketch show based on the successful books by Terry Deary. Aimed at Key Stage 2, the series offers a different slant on teaching history topics including The Romans, Tudors, Ancient Greece, and The Gunpowder Plot.



Don't forget to check our website for more details and to keep up with all the latest additions to Visual and A-V Resources.

New from BOOKS

Although the DCSF's 'Boys into Books' project came to an end last year, WSLR still has plenty of the right stuff to help get the boys in your school more engaged in reading and writing.

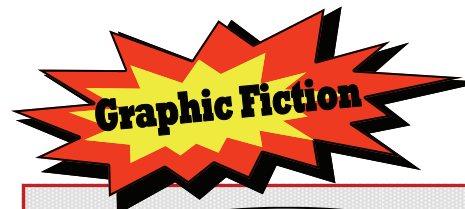
BOYS Reading and writing



We now have nearly 50 new targeted collections to which we have given the title

Books with Boys in Mind (Yrs 3-4 FB2500 and Yrs 5-6 FB2600) which include works from popular boy-friendly authors such as *Eoin Colfer* and *Anthony Horowitz*. Other collections (fiction and non-fiction) created to appeal to boys (and girls too!) include **Football Fiction & Poetry** (KS 1/2 FB9100), **Space** (KS 1 X11880 and KS 2 X21050), **Castles** (KS 1/2 X10370), **Pirates** (KS 1/2 X12660) and the ever-popular **Dragons** (KS 1 FB3960 and KS 2 FB3970).

Eoin Colfer
Anthony Horowitz



With help from the Primary National Strategy programme, WSLR has been able to add 20 brand new **Graphic Fiction** collections (FB9000) to our current stock (which we have also upgraded) to support you in opening that vital gateway to reading for all your pupils, especially the more reluctant ones.

Who can borrow these collections?

ALL our Swindon and other non-Wiltshire member schools, can borrow our new Graphic Fiction collections.

GOOD NEWS!

EVERY primary school in Wiltshire together with

What's in a box?

Around 16 selected graphic fiction books for boys (and girls) in years 5 and 6.

See our website for more information
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wslr



A fair proportion of our readers will know *Book Tracker*, the little green booklet which for some years has been used by many Wiltshire and Swindon primary schools to classify their non-fiction book collections and to help children find books using a classification system.

A smaller number of you will also be familiar with *InfoTracker* (or, if you were a very early adopter, you may know it as *Book Tracker Two*) our replacement for *Book Tracker*, which is already in use and 'on trial' in a number of schools.

We can now announce that *InfoTracker* will be published during Summer 2010, and at that stage we shall be sending further information to all Wiltshire and Swindon schools.

Book Tracker was published in 1993 and now, not surprisingly, looks more than a little dated. Also, because of changes in the curriculum, topics now popular are not always easy to find, which can be discouraging to pupils in their quest for information. For this reason alone a replacement is well overdue.

Equally importantly, while *Book Tracker* may have been perfectly adequate for the early National Curriculum era of teacher-directed learning, it is far less useful as we enter the age of the new 'creative curriculum', with its emphasis on thinking skills and taking responsibility for one's own learning – part of which is becoming a competent (and enthusiastic!) independent library user. *InfoTracker* will be, we hope, not just a tool for the library classifier, but something which will help your pupils on their way to becoming independent learners.

We can guide you in implementing INFOTRACKER to best effect and at the same time help you improve your library for the benefit of everyone in the school. Every WSLR member school is entitled to a free annual advisory visit, usually (but not necessarily) focussed on the library. And non-members can purchase the same services for a modest fee. Contact Lesley or Tina on 01225 713744 for more information.

Do you know how you can get over £10,000 to refurbish and restock your school library - just by writing a letter?

I thought it was too good to be true, too! But, following a WSLR review of our library and discussion with MLS, suppliers of Junior Librarian, we had learned that The Foyle Foundation might be willing to help us in just this way. So, nothing ventured, we sent for the forms, were pleasantly surprised at how straightforward they were, and soon put in our bid – minimum £10,000!

We outlined why we needed the money and added background data about the school, social and economic aspects, and other factors that made ours a bid worthy of support. Then, some commentary on the importance of the library in school, how it helps in promoting a love of learning through books, and the potential benefits for the wider community.

Finally, we added details of our plans – for replacing a large proportion of our library books, installing Junior Librarian as our new user-friendly management system, and brightening up and refurbishing the library space. All of which would be impossible, of course, without an injection of cash from an organisation like The Foyle Foundation.

An acknowledgement letter stated that it might take up to four months for trustees to consider our bid, so I put it to the back of my mind. Imagine our surprise and delight, then, when three months later a letter arrived with the good news that we had been awarded a grant of £10,000! So our dreams are about to come true. As I write, we're just waiting to hear what happens next – but our shopping lists are already taking shape!

Now that you know how just a little effort can produce results, you may want to put in a bid too. Go for it - you may be lucky, as we were. Start at www.foylefoundation.org.uk. If you'd like any tips, or sight of our application, I'm happy to help, so do get in touch.

Success!

How the Foyle Foundation is helping us renew our school library

(and might do the same for you)

by Mary Hiscock
Head Teacher
St Barnabas C of E School
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