

# espresso

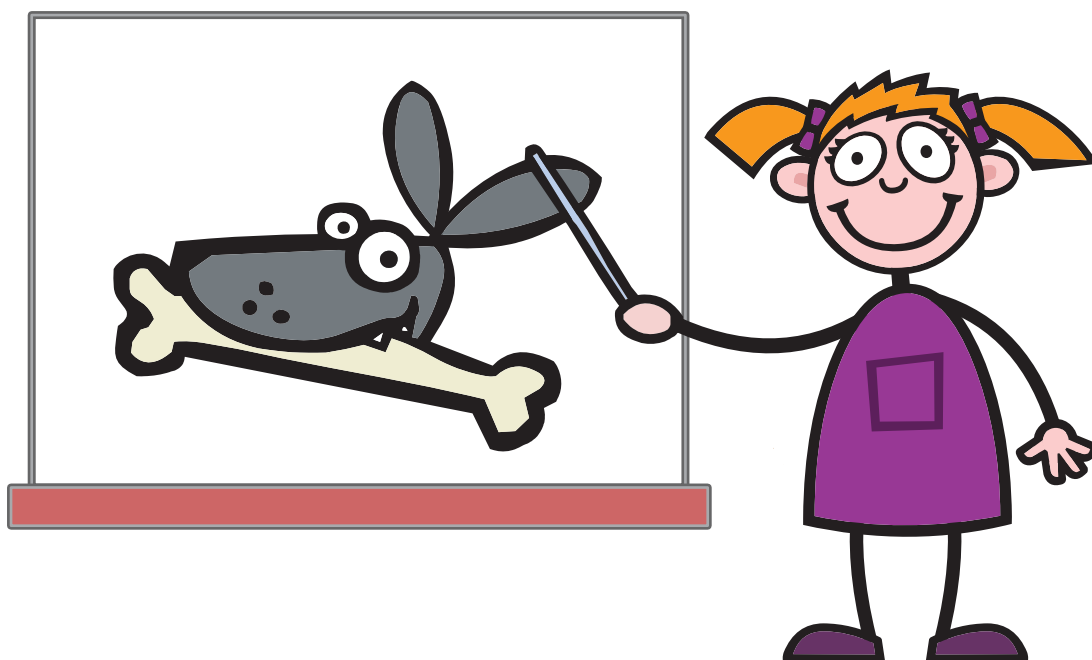
education

## Brooke Hill Primary School Success Story

### Topic-Based Approach to Teaching

*“Our teachers find Espresso easy to use as it is dynamic, current and interactive. No matter what learning style a child is, there is something for them on Espresso, whether it’s visual or kinaesthetic or auditory.”*

**Ms. Naomi Coleman, ICT Co-ordinator at Brooke Hill Primary School**





Brooke Hill Primary School in Oakham (Rutland LA) is a school with a strong community spirit that boasts beautiful views out over the countryside that surrounds it. The vision statement of the school is centred around pupils development of ICT skills and creating environments to encourage its use, both in-school and at home, recognising its importance as an integral part of life. The pupils consistently achieve significantly higher than the national average and the school was awarded

Beacon status in 2001. They also gained School Achievement awards for Excellence in 2001, 2002 and 2003. Their dedication to ICT was confirmed further when they added a new ICT Suite in April 2003. All classes are timetabled to use the suite at least twice a week, of which one lesson is dedicated to the development of the children's ICT skills.

## Embraced by teachers and pupils alike!



The school have been subscribing to Espresso since March 2005 and due to their commitment to ICT and Espresso, they were awarded 'Espresso Ambassador' status in May 2006. Espresso is accessed daily across the entire staff of Brooke Hill as it is the only resource that all the teachers use and feel comfortable and confident with.

*"It is a useful tool for teaching, accessible to all adults and children, the range of ways that different information is presented is stimulating and constantly updated, current affairs make it an of the moment resource."*

**Charlotte Riley, one of Brooke Hill's teachers says,**

Teachers are not the only ones adept at using Espresso and IT; so are the pupils. Every term, two pupils are selected to be techno buddies responsible for assisting their teacher and fellow pupils in setting up computers, whiteboards or any other technical equipment for the lesson. This is Brooke Hill's way of encouraging their pupils to get involved in ICT and it has obviously worked as the position of techno buddy is now a very coveted one!

*"I have worked with Brooke Hill Primary for many years to support the schools' continual improvement of ICT. I have been delighted to hear teachers talking with great enthusiasm about their exciting experiences with Espresso in the classroom, whilst observing with interest the innovative ways in which the school uses Espresso as an integral part of the curriculum."*

**Louise Cook, an independent ICT Consultant**

## Topic-Based Framework keep children engaged

For the last four years, Brooke Hill have been following a topic-based framework for their teaching. The school felt like the National Curriculum was becoming too prescriptive and they wanted to focus more on the children's interests. Initially the whole staff decided which topics were most appropriate and topics are now reviewed every two years. National Curriculum objectives were all linked into the topics and each class studies six topics across each school year. The topics last for six weeks for the KS2 pupils and a term for the KS1 pupils as their topics are broader such as Animals, Ourselves and Plants.



Certain Espresso resources will always be used when teaching a certain topic so these will be incorporated into the teachers planning. However, many teachers are so comfortable with Espresso and its breadth of content that they can also, ad-hoc, find what they are looking for.

The framework was already in action when Brooke Hill bought Espresso and this, Sharon Milner, Acting Head Teacher explains,

“is why Espresso is so good, as it just enhanced our project teaching. It is arranged in such a way to perfectly support our topic based framework. Espresso has really assisted in making the children more enthusiastic about finding out more information and expanding their knowledge of topics.”

## Espresso in action

For their KS1 topic, Houses and Homes, a whole range of Espresso's resources are incorporated into the lessons. Brooke Hill use many of the videos and activities on interactive whiteboards, getting the whole class involved.

### Example:

- *Open a Door* (Foundation > World), features videos of children from five different countries leaving their houses and going about their days. Each video is separated into two parts and is accompanied by music giving teachers total freedom to adapt the videos to suit their teaching. Brooke Hill believes *Open a Door* piece promotes multi-cultural awareness to the pupils without them even realising it.



## Example:

- Another video that is regularly used in the Houses and Homes topic is *The Enormous Flower* (KS1 > English). This section is part of the *Story Starts* module and it features videos of the largest and smelliest flower that is growing in a greenhouse in Kew Gardens.
- The videos are accompanied by a *Story book*, word game and a *Find out more* section full of websites, activities and photos.

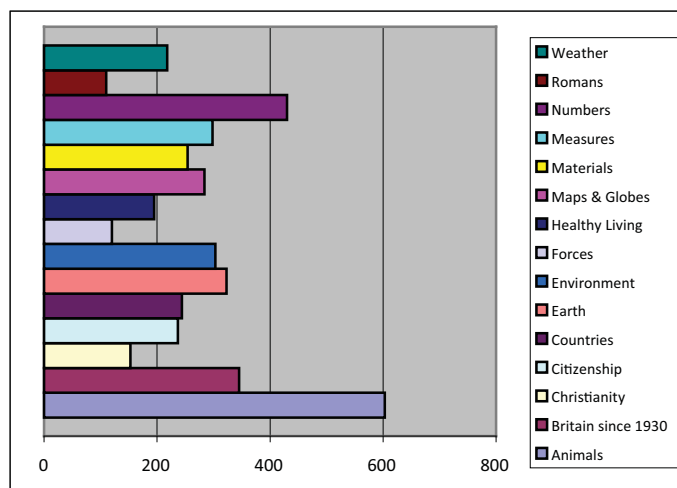
The teachers from Brooke Hill say to their neighbouring schools who don't have Espresso, "it is fantastic, come and talk to our staff and children to find out why, come and see it in action!"

## Keeping pupils in touch with world's current events

Brooke Hill likes to bring the world to their pupils' fingertips through ICT. As a result, the Espresso *News Bites* service is also used very regularly by Brooke Hill teachers, either as part of their own class assemblies or in story time, giving the children something topical to discuss in a child-friendly way. Sharon describes them as 'a godsend' as they give the children an awareness of the world outside their school, without it being too intense. Charlotte believes that *News Bites*

"make the assembly accessible for all age groups as they are usually aware of the current affairs and are therefore able to contribute to the assembly at the level appropriate to their age."

## Top 15 topic's supported by Espresso's resources



Contact us today to arrange a free in-school demonstration or for further information:

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