



Dragonsville

A writers for the future in the classroom project

Kids on the Net is the foremost website for using the Internet in literacy teaching. Writers for the Future in the Classroom is our latest initiative to provide teachers with practical tools to easily use the Kids on the Net resources and the Internet in teaching literacy, reading and writing in the classroom.

Digital teacher in residence Simon Widdowson's first project will be Dragonsville.

The premise

Dragonsville is a community of dragons who live close to Kids' Castle (another project within the Kids on the Net website). The dragons of Dragonsville are friendly, yet shy dragons who have avoided contact with humans until now. Since learning that the knights of old had spread untruths about them, they have decided that they need to show children how friendly they really are and so have made the decision that it is time to allow children into Dragonsville.

Within Dragonsville there are several sections that encourage children to produce literacy work. Pilot groups will work in one or more areas as it fits into their termly planning. We hope some writing will take place in cooperation with other schools, over the Internet.

The Rock of Knowledge

This is an area where the dragons go to find out information. Children will be encouraged to research and present information in this area. Example application: The NLS framework for Year 3 term 2 (Instructional writing), Year 4 term 2 (Explanation), Year 5 term 2 (Non Chronological Reports and Explanation) and Year 6 term 2 (Notices and Public Information Documents) can be linked into this area.

The Cave of Fame

Dragons are proud of their ancestors, and like to display images of them. In this area children will be able to select a dragon from a gallery of images, and write a biography for it. Example application: The NLS framework for Year 6 term 1 (Biographies and Auto Biographies) can be linked into this area for revision purposes.

The Naming Pool

For younger children, this area will encourage children adopt a young dragon and to write a character portrait of it. Once the character portrait is submitted, the child will be able to see the dragon animated.

The Portal of Tidings

In this area children will be able to write dragonpal letters to the dragons of Dragonsville, or write letters to home or school from Dragonsville. There will also be a 'd-card' section allowing children to send email postcards to their friends. Example application: The NLS framework for Year 3 term 3 (letters), Year 5 term 1 (Recounts and visits), Year 5 term 3 (letters) and Year 6 term 1 (letters) can be linked into this area.

The Cavern

This area is Dragonville's Town Hall. Serious debates based on moral issues take place here. Example application: The NLS framework for Year 4 term 3 (Persuasive Writing and debates), Year 5 term 3 (Persuasive writing to argue a point of view and leaflets) and Year 6 term 2 (Moral issues) can be linked into this area.

The Story Scroll

This area will feature stories that children can interact with. Example 1: The first half of a story will be presented, and children asked to submit the ending. All the children will be able to vote for their favourite, and then the nominated ending will be displayed as first choice. All well-written endings will be available on the site.

Example 2: There will also be a personalised story, in which children can enter data such as their first name, school, best friend, favourite food, etc and then see this information integrated into a story presented just for them that they can print and keep.