



WatsEducation Newsletter

Newsletter Date: May '16

Volume 2, Number 2

In This Issue:

- Welcome
- #TMArboretum
- Outdoor Idea of the Month
- Outdoor Learning Audit
- Empty Classroom Day '16
- Practical Pedagogies '16

Useful Links:

watseducation.com

Consultancy, CPD, Projects, Resources and more.

watseducationideas.weebly.com

Inspirational videos and stories for class discussions and assemblies.

pledgeabook.com

Bringing the joy of reading to children who need it most

emptyclassroomday.org.uk/

Getting as many children as possible outside for at least one lesson in the school day and for playtimes to be celebrated too.

Contact Us:

www.watseducation.com

wats.ed.consultancy@gmail.com

Twitter: @WatsEd

Welcome:

Welcome to May.

The WatsEducation Newsletter has taken a break for a month or so. But it is back and into its second year!

It's the Summer Term. SATs are done and the weather might actually begin to look summery (soon).

You might like to have a check back at the Outdoor Ideas of the Month:

<http://www.watseducation.com/outdoor-learning.html>

As always, I really hope that there is something in here that is useful to you.

Kind regards

Mike

#TMArboretum – An upcoming TeachMeet

After the #PrimaryRocks edchat on Bank Holiday Monday (It never sleeps!), I connected with @NialiAx who informed me of an upcoming TeachMeet in Derby.

Primary Education focused - Monday 13th June 4-6pm

Arboretum Primary School,

Corden St,

Derby

DE23 8GP.

There are still have slots available for speakers

If you'd like to attend then please email events@teacheractive.com



Outdoor Idea of the Month – May:

“Smell the Spices”:

As a child my Nan created a game now known by the name “Smell the Spices”, simply a memory game played by sniffing the many and varied contents of her herb and spice rack.

Then remembering the contents using only the sense of smell.

My Tyre-Herb Garden is very healthy at the moment and I love to go back in time by smelling the different herbs.



Play the game with your class.

Put the leaves of different herbs in cloth bags or glass jars. Cut leaves up to make the aroma stronger if you want – then challenge the children to match the smells to the plants.

I find children from EYFS to Y6 love this game.

You can use ginger, cinnamon, cloves and other exotic spices too.

Can the children identify a given smell when the jars/bags are mixed up?

(Image Credit: www.momtastic.com)

“A wise man can learn more from a foolish question than a fool can learn from a wise answer.”

Bruce Lee

Outdoor Learning Audit:

After sending out some quotes from Ofsted reports in February's Newsletter, Head teacher Hayley Adams created a quick Outdoor Learning Audit/Questionnaire. As she is my own HT, I have adapted the document further and made it available on my website in the 'Outdoor Learning' and 'Resources' sections.

All the questions are based directly from Ofsted report quotes where Outdoor Learning and provision was mentioned specifically.

I would value any thoughts.

<http://www.watseducation.com/outdoor-learning.html>

Empty Classroom Day 2016:

“Empty Classroom Day is a day to celebrate and inspire learning and play outside the classroom, and we want YOU to get involved!

Join schools from across the world in taking at least one class outdoors, and then see if you can get the rest of your year group outside or maybe your whole school? This year we are focusing on playtime too, it's just as important as the rest of the school day!

Check out the [resources page](#) for inspirational lesson plans, posters and advice on how to make Empty Classroom Day brilliant and how to sustain outdoor play and learning all year round.

Empty Classroom Day this year is part of a GLOBAL campaign, backed by [Persil's Dirt is Good](#) movement, so there will be loads of opportunities to share not only with schools across the UK, but across the world.”

Sign up your class here: <https://emptyclassroomday.org.uk/>



I created a Padlet of ideas for Empty Classroom Day Last year, feel free to have a look and add any more ideas of your own:

<http://www.watseducation.com/updates-and-projects.html>

Practical Pedagogies - Toulouse:

Are you a jet-setter?

Does a place on an International Education Conference in the South of France in November sounds appealing?

It does? Then this could be a fantastic opportunity for you:

[Practical Pedagogies at the International School of Toulouse](#)

Thursday and Friday November 3rd/4th.

A high-impact, grass-roots training conference for classroom teachers by classroom teachers. Two days of inspiring keynotes, workshops and evening social events.

There is an "early bird" delegate rate for the two full days of training, with a choice of more than 100 sessions, is just **150 Euros** until the end of March. The "standard" 200 Euro rate applies thereafter.

There are workshop sessions being run by teachers from all over Europe, and lots from the UK, Primary and Secondary sessions are available...

This is something not to be missed if you have the opportunity.

I will be there leading “**I'm at Teacher, Get me Outside...**” Will you be joining me?

See you next month!

Mike ([@WatsEd](#))