

FINLAND 2017





NEW MEDIA, NEW METHODS

Through eTwinning, our school runs a project with four other schools in Europe: in England, Finland, Italy and Spain. On 29th January 2017, seven pupils from the exchange club here at Nelson-Mandela-Schule travelled with three teachers (Miss Diel, Miss Erlenbach and Miss Roberts) to Soini in Finland. The theme of our meeting was eBooks and how new technology can be brought into lessons. The main topic for our research was the state of water, fish and nature in Finland.



TECHNOLOGY AT SOININ YHTENÄISKOULU

At the school in Soini, there are good technology facilities for the pupils to use. They have a computer room with desktop computers and a projector. Teachers also use the projector to project photos and eBooks onto the wall, which they then show the class.





They also have several laptop trollies which are great for pupils to use in their own classrooms instead of in the computer room. This gives more pupils the chance to use different media in their lessons.

We used the laptops in the school hall to research and prepare for our task. Some pupils also used their iPads and smart phones to accompany the laptops so that they could do more independent research on the topics to put all together in the group presentation afterwards.



In lesson time, eBooks were also demonstrated to show how they can be and are incorporated into the everyday curriculum. This also gave our pupils some ideas for the layout of the presentations, which would represent the form of an eBook.





As part of the project, pupils visited the editorial offices of Ilkka News, the local newspaper for the Soini/Seinäjoki region. A visit to its printworks, iPrint, was also planned into our programme.



Here the pupils learned about the history of the company and what it takes to run a successful newspaper. One of the editors gave a presentation before we were given a tour of the offices, where we got to see work in progress.



At ePrint, we learned about all the different forms of media which are needed to print a newspaper. We were also informed about the future of printing newspapers and magazines and how technology (specifically in the forms of eBooks and online magazines) are taking the place of the traditional newspaper.

We then had a tour of the printworks and we got to see all the different technology and machines that are needed to print the papers. This was very interesting to see and was thought-provoking for our task since we were essentially researching for eBooks which risks the demise of such printworks.



We were also taken ice-fishing so we could gain some first-hand experience with the fish we were learning about for our task. We also caught some fish! We were then able to dissect these in biology lessons with our exchange partners, where we learnt about their anatomies and how they are adapted to their habitat and climate in Finland.

Below you can find a gallery of pictures from our field trip!

Click on the arrows to the left and right of the pictures to see them! Click directly on the image to view in full-screen!



Being shown how to ice-fish.

PRESENTING OUR FINDINGS



At the end of the week, we uploaded our work to the learning platform peda.net and used the projector and microphone to present our findings on the water, fish and nature in Finland to all of the other groups and teachers. It was really great fun to gather all of the information and present it in English!

Another important aspect of our trip to Finland was making international connections. Not only did pupils get to know their Finnish hosts, they also made friends with others from England, Italy and Spain who were also taking part in the project.



Throughout the week, the pupils were sorted into 6 different groups, and in each group were children from different countries. More often than not there were only one or two from the same country in each group so they had to get to know lots of others. This worked very well and at the end of the week, everyone was very sad to leave their new friends!



It was also a great opportunity for the teachers to network and get to know teachers from other countries. They also got to join in with the project research and all the other fun activities we got to do throughout the week!



On the last evening, there was a prize giving ceremony for some of the teams who had worked the best and won various competitions throughout the course of the week.



2017
is a great year to visit Finland
because in 2017 the country celebrates
its 100th birthday!

