



Press release

New web site brings sunshine to the classroom

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The Met. Office has launched a new range of teaching materials designed to integrate weather into the National Curriculum, including a new interactive weather web site.

The new teaching aids that have received the approval of the National Grid for Learning, are designed to broaden the teaching of weather into a range of cross-curricular subjects.

At the heart of The Met. Office drive to bring weather further into the classroom is a web site www.met-office.gov.uk/education/ that provides material for exercises and projects. The site contains live data including UK weather charts, visible and infrared satellite pictures as well as data on rainfall, wind speed, wind direction and temperature. All data are regularly updated and will be held in a weather archive containing information on conditions over the previous seven days, ensuring weekend readings are not missed.

World weather data will also be available on line, updated every six hours, with a climate map and a time zone chart.

The site will also contain a range of other information including historic weather events, such as major floods, the introduction of the Thames barrier and the development of the Beaufort scale. A page explaining the work of The Met. Office will also offer advice for pupils wishing to pursue a career in meteorology.

In addition a Curriculum Learning Centre will allow pupils to investigate the uses of weather forecasts, test their knowledge of meteorological terms through a weather crossword and learn how to collect data themselves. There is also a Teacher Training Centre that tests teachers' knowledge of climatology. On completion of exercises, teachers receive an official Met. Office certificate of achievement.

The new materials also include a range of posters and work cards for Key Stages 1 and 2, covering topics such as severe weather, rainbows and seasons. A forecasting chart comes supplied with removable symbols enabling pupils to present their own weather forecasts.

All the material has been written and approved by qualified teachers working alongside expert meteorologists. Met. Office Education spokesperson Jacquie Syvret said: "The web site and teaching resources have been created with pupil development in mind, with expert input from weather specialists and educational publishers Stanley Thornes. They are applicable to a range of disciplines across the curriculum, not only science and geography, but also English, information technology, history and maths."

A catalogue of weather-related teaching products is available by calling 0870 900 5454. The resources can be ordered on-line at www.met-office.gov.uk/education/.

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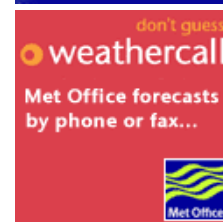
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