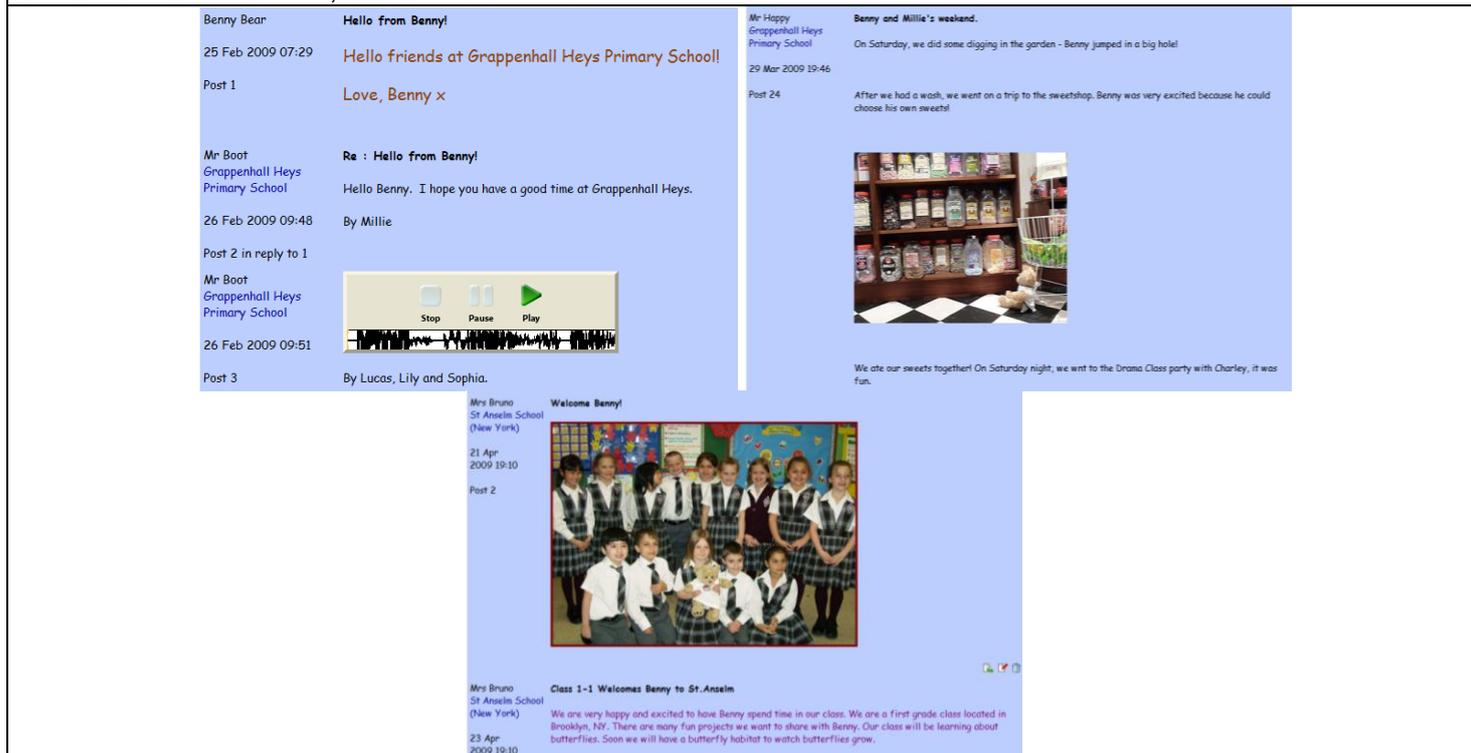


The cLc Learning Platform is supporting teaching and improving learning outcomes in schools around the world. These Best Practice examples enable teachers to share experiences, ideas and recommendations to support and aid other teachers tackling the same challenges.

Find more cLc Best Practice along with curriculum maps and 'How To' guides & films at [www.clcsuccess.com](http://www.clcsuccess.com)

<b>School:</b> Grappenhall Heys Primary School	<b>LA:</b> Warrington
<b>Teacher:</b> Matt Boot / Emma Newman	<b>Students:</b> Reception / Early Years
<b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:mattboot@googlemail.com">mattboot@googlemail.com</a>	
<b>Learning Focus:</b> To encourage Reception children to begin writing for a purpose and audience.	
<b>Curriculum Focus:</b> Language, Literacy and Communication	
<b>Tools used:</b> Forum, Sound Recorder	



The screenshot displays a forum thread titled 'Hello from Benny!'. The posts are as follows:

- Benny Bear** (25 Feb 2009 07:29): "Hello friends at Grappenhall Heys Primary School" and "Love, Benny x"
- Mr Boot** (26 Feb 2009 09:48): "Re : Hello from Benny! Hello Benny. I hope you have a good time at Grappenhall Heys."
- Millie** (26 Feb 2009 09:48): "By Millie" (includes a sound recorder icon)
- Mrs Bruno** (21 Apr 2009 19:10): "Welcome Benny!" (includes a photo of a class of children)
- Benny Bear** (29 Mar 2009 19:46): "Benny and Millie's weekend. On Saturday, we did some digging in the garden - Benny jumped in a big hole!" (includes a photo of a sweet shop)
- Benny Bear** (26 Feb 2009 09:51): "After we had a wash, we went on a trip to the sweetshop. Benny was very excited because he could choose his own sweets!" (includes a sound recorder icon)
- Mrs Bruno** (23 Apr 2009 19:10): "Class 1-1 Welcomes Benny to St. Anselm. We are very happy and excited to have Benny spend time in our class. We are a first grade class located in Brooklyn, NY. There are many fun projects we want to share with Benny. Our class will be learning about butterflies. Soon we will have a butterfly habitat to watch butterflies grow."

**How this worked in practice:** The children in Reception class joined into the UniServity Collaborative project – It's A Small World. The children were able to build a relationship with the project character called Benny Bear, and then record daily events in his diary forum using a combination of text, images, photographs and the sound recorder. Children were aware that other children taking part in this project were able to view Benny's Diary and thus knew that their work had an audience. Children were encouraged to record news, events and descriptions of their daily lives focusing on their local area and the animals that live within it in order to complement Science and Geography curriculum.

In addition, children from the class were able to view the Benny's Diary forums created and run by children in other schools, both locally, nationally and internationally. This meant that the children could find out about new localities across the globe that Benny Bear was visiting, and were also able to engage in Question & Answer sessions within the forum with other children the same age across the world.

**By the end of this sequence of work children had developed skills in:**

**Literacy:** Writing (Chronological Report / Diary)

**Geography:** Locality

**Science:** Life & Living Processes / The World around us

**Next Steps:** The children could use a range of media to record their daily lives with Benny Bear – ranging from the sound recorder within their diary entries, to photographs, inserted drawings, film of a virtual tour around the school. Children could also begin to respond to diary entries left by other children.