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School: It's A Small World Project/ Willow Bank Infant School	LA: Wokingham
Teacher: Tracey Elliott	Students: Year 1
Contact: t.elliott27@btinternet.com	
Learning Focus: To engage children with writing for a real purpose and a real audience.	
Curriculum Focus: Literacy (Letter writing) Art and Design, PSHE	
Tools used:  Images,  Custom Pages,  Forums	

Waiting for Benny Bear

We are really excited about the imminent arrival of Benny Bear.

We have written letters of invitation to tell Benny Bear about some of the activities we have planned for his stay.

We have organised a welcome party for his first day with balloons, cake and games.

We've all made party hats to wear plus one for Benny Bear.

We have also made welcome posters using Smart Notebook.



Benny Bear Has Arrived At Willow Bank Infant

Welcome Benny Bear

Benny Bear Has Arrived At Willow Bank Infant School!

Here are some photos of us getting ready for Benny Bear's arrival.

We prepared cakes and drinks, decorated the tables with welcome flags and streamers.

Then a special parcel arrived. It was opened very carefully and guess who was inside?!



Getting the party ready

A special parcel arrives

It's Benny Bear!

Benny wearing his party hat.

Our waiters and waitresses.

How this worked in practice: The school had registered to take part in the free UniServity Collaborative Project 'Its A Small World', and before the arrival of Benny the Bear, the children collectively decided on different ways they could welcome Benny to the school. The children began by creating welcome posters and writing letters to Benny telling him about the school and the different activities they would be doing in order to persuade him to visit. Once Benny had confirmed that he would be visiting the school, the class arranged a welcome party for Benny when he arrived, writing shopping lists in their literacy lesson. For the party, the children created games, developing mathematical counting skills in their design. Each child also designed a party hat to wear at the event in their art lesson exploring pattern and colour. After the party had taken place the children created a  custom page to show  photos of their invitation letters, the children and Benny at the party. These images enabled the children to share the events and work with the other children worldwide within the project and with their families at home, thus sparking conversation and collaboration beyond their lessons, and increasing parental engagement. Alongside the use of  Custom pages to showcase the different learning activities completed away from the ICT suite, the children spent time adding different  forums within the project including discussions about why Willow Bank Infant School was the best school to visit, building on their reflection in School Council and comparing/contrasting their school and locality with others around the world.

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

Learning: PSHE > Making New Friends

Literacy: Letter Writing for a Specific Audience

Art and Design: Poster Design, Hat and Invitation Design

Next Steps: To keep a learning journal diary for Benny Bear using a  forum to scaffold children starting to reflect upon their own learning.