

10<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Dear Parents

I am writing to you to inform you that over the next term we will be starting to use Studywiz. This is the learning platform that Hampshire recommends for schools. A learning platform is an online resource that brings together a range of technology into one place.

Studywiz is a safe environment in which children can work together across classes, year groups and beyond. Studywiz includes tools for incorporating video and audio into lessons, making it simple to link in websites and documents and also includes an environment for the children to chat and discuss their learning. Studywiz has huge potential for sharing resources across the county and for teachers and children to work together in lots of different ways. Children will be able to login at home via the school website with their login name and password. As this is an online activity, you do need internet access. If you do not have this at home we will aim to offer Wizkid lunchtime sessions at school when required.

As I am sure you are aware, this is a huge undertaking. We will be trialling the system in Year 4 this half term and we will look to extend this at a later date. Your child will be issued with their own login and initial password. They will be taught how to use Wizkid and about internet safety including the use of passwords, Wizkid email and Wizkid chat.

There are a few very important points I would like to raise:

1. Studywiz is **entirely secure and safe**. Only authorised people who the school has given specific access to can enter the site. At present every pupil and staff member in Year 4 will have access. This means that nobody can enter the site without permission, hack in or get outside access. E-Safety is paramount and it was our number one concern before agreeing to use this tool.
2. Everything is recorded and noted down. Unlike other websites where children can write comments and the information is not monitored or recorded, every note made or comment left is monitored and logged so we know who was contributing and the exact words that were used and even the time it was left.
3. This is a more engaging way of encouraging your child to use technology for learning rather than just playing games.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Cook, ICT subject leader, through the school office.

Eventually the whole school community and parents too will be able to log in to the system to look at their children's learning. This will take time, so please bear with us.

Yours sincerely

Steve Cook  
ICT Leader