

CASE STUDY:

iPad film-making & heritage project – Yr 4, St Francis Xavier's School

Premise

The 'Herefordshire Life Through A Lens' hop picking film-making project was an exciting project for Year 4 at St Francis Xavier's School to take part in, and by using a cross curricular method it enabled us to fit it into an already busy curriculum.

Hints for a successful film

Decide on your focus for the film: read the specified criteria carefully.

Contact parents and explain the project. Gain permission for the children to be filmed. Release forms are provided.

Organise your planning and curriculum time effectively.

Source a location for filming - complete risk assessment and permission to film there.

Source props if needed.

Contact experts for interviews – they will make your video more engaging and the children can write the letters.

Costume list to parents, and props if appropriate

Write scenes in literacy lessons - perform and practise. Children need to know their lines before arriving at the location to film. And also rehearse where the children will all stand.

Attend film-training days – it may be tempting to send a colleague but if it's your class, you will gain a lot of knowledge by attending as well.

For filming on location: take scene and costume lists, lunch and sense of humour! Be prepared for rain if outside.

Attend editing training day.

Initially edit the filmed scenes.

Compose music or record songs for backing track. Include sound effects if needed.

Editing of film - this is quite fiddly using iMovie and is best done on the iPad. Do not be tempted to transfer it onto your own laptop as it is very difficult to transfer back to the

iPad. It takes quite a while to get it looking professional but do persevere as it makes such a difference to the final film.

Rick Goldsmith (Catcher Media) and Mark Sanderson are on hand to provide help at all stages.

Our cross curricular method

In literacy, the children wrote their filming scenes based on the local collection of Derek Evan's photographs. These were performed to the class in readiness for filming on location at Stocks farm. Using their experiences on location, they also wrote wonderful stories about a hop-picking child and incredible poems. Using practised interview techniques, John Pudge (The Hop Pocket) and Ali Capper (Stocks Farm) were interviewed as our experts.

In Geography and History, the children learned about Herefordshire and change over time in the hop-picking industry. Although the invention of The Bruff hop-picking machine in the local village of Cradley made the farmer's lives easier, it shattered a traditional way of life for many local people.

In computing, the children learned about filming techniques using iMovie and editing. Using Garageband as part of the music curriculum, they created their own music to accompany the film and performed a song based on 'Hopping down in Kent' by the Albion Band for their backing track.

Conclusion

This project has been invaluable to the children's academic learning but in addition to this, it has taught them the importance of working together as a group, it has improved their speaking and listening skills and given them the confidence to try things that they might not normally do. Most importantly, the children have thoroughly enjoyed it and it has been a great success.

Sarah George, 2018