



www.mousewizards.co.uk

Summer 2012

Special points of interest:

- Our themes for this term
- New Venues for Summer Term
- How to help your child in their final term at nursery
- NEW Holiday Club
- Teaching in pairs

Free Websites To Try



www.poissonrouge.com

Aimed at children in the Foundation Stage, there is no right or wrong way of using this site. It is up to children to find what they want by exploring. There are no instructions—all that is required is an inquiring mind!

www.topmarks.co.uk

A range of maths and literacy games aimed at children aged between 3 and 14. Uses the computer as a learning tool.

www.freerice.com

A vocabulary building activity for older children. For each correct answer, the World Food Programme will donate 10 grains of rice to help end hunger.

Please share any educational sites with us that your children love using. We'd love to hear from you!

We have been back for a few weeks now after the Easter break and are very impressed with the achievements the children have made so far. Mini MouseWizards is following the theme of **Minibeasts and Life-cycles**, while Mouse-Wizard Masters is heading to infinity and beyond with our **'Space and Aliens'** theme. We have been busy working with our web designer on our new website and planning an exciting range of new activities for the children, some of which we look forward to sharing with you via the website.

New Venues

This term we are delighted to be teaching in new venues including Denham Village Infants School and Lent Rise School, Burnham. Lent Rise School is one of the leading schools in the UK for ICT and provides an exciting opportunity for MouseWizards as it involves working with both parents and children in an early morning club.

Final Term at Nursery

We are still welcoming lots of new faces in nurseries in the term

Mousewizards activities are designed to promote collaboration and sharing to mutually benefit children working in a pair.

We set up the computer to foster interaction and use 2 mice to make the computer a social experience. This also minimizes the likelihood of one child dominating control of the mouse. Children needing support during activities benefit from working together. We actively encourage conversation and collaboration with peers. Our findings are that children quickly learn to share responsibilities and

before children leave nursery behind to begin their Primary School education. It is not too late to brush up your child's computer skills and we are confident that even a term's computer tuition will help to give them extra skills and confidence for a head start in their new schools. We really can take your child's mouse and keyboard skills to the next level.

NEW Holiday Club

Over the years parents have expressed an interest in having a MouseWizards holiday club. With this in mind we have been developing fun, completely new activities in film making to excite and challenge children who will be starting in Years 1-3 in September. The holiday club will take place from Monday 23rd July to Friday 27th July with 2 hour sessions available in the morning (10-12pm) or afternoon (1-3pm) at the cost of £125 per week available in Burnham and Chalfont St Peter. The teaching ratio will be 1:6 to ensure a high level of individual attention. Numbers will be limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis. Please contact us or email via our website to register your interest.

Working in Pairs

co-operate to achieve goals. Educational research also supports this:

Research by Blaye indicates that children working in pairs were twice as likely to succeed on the computer-based problem-solving task than children working alone (the notion that 'two heads are often better than one in problem solving').

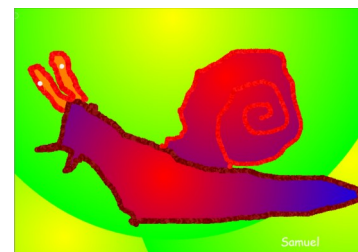
Vygotsky also asserted that, '...computers provide a unique learning environment for peer scaffolding. Children find it irresistible to work together at the



Using drag and draw skills to trace a butterfly.
Melissa (Age 4)



Ollie (Year 1)



Samuel (Age 3)

computer and are able to create a "shared problem space" in which they complete tasks and solve problems together.' (Freeman & Somerindyke)

There are of course occasions when children benefit from having their own computer, particularly in desktop publishing activities or researching when they will need to focus on using the keyboard or internet. There are many times when children have these opportunities, namely at home and in school.

Next time : The I pad