



The eTwinning

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As the new coordinator for eTwinning I welcome you to this first issue of the eTwinning newsletter for Malta!

With the help of a supportive and very enthusiastic team of ambassadors and expert teachers, this newsletter has finally become a reality. The main aim is to keep you updated with what is happening on the eTwinning portal, any events and activities in the local scenario, practical tips to using digital tools in our teaching and learning, as well as other featured items.



Rose-anne Camilleri
eTwinning
Coordinator -
National Support
Service



etwinningmalta



@etwinningmalta



#etwinningmalta



etwinning@
ilearn.edu.mt

Professional Development
(Training, Learning Events, Webinars, Seminars, Courses, Resources)

Networking
(Partner finding, Creating projects)

Collaboration, Communication
(Partnerships)

- School Education Gateway
- Erasmus +
- Teacher Academy
- OER-Open Educ Resources
- eTwinningLive Platform

eTwinning
A dynamic concept intertwining digital literacies within a context. A stepping-stone, instrumental in leading to other opportunities, platforms, resources.

- Through
- eTwinningLive Tool
 - Social Media
 - Video Conferencing Tools
- With
- Other Entities/Organisations – Erasmus + / EUPA - FES

Internet Safety
(Cyber bullying, Staying safe online, Be Smart Online)

Digital competencies
(DigComp Framework/21st century skills)

Teacher Training
(Modules in student teacher training)(University) Modules offered by the IFE)

Global Education
(Intercultural awareness)

My vision of eTwinning

My vision is that of marrying eTwinning and digital literacy seamlessly. eTwinning is a platform wherein digital literacy can take form and be put into meaningful contexts.

21st century skills such as collaboration, creativity, content creation and use of technology enable a more

etwinning.skola.edu.mt
(356) 2598 2150

active role in society and boost employability. It is thus our duty as educators to provide the opportunities and skills to students, which allow for active learning. eTwinning provides the environment for such skills to flourish in a natural way through interaction, communication and collaboration with other partners in various countries. eTwinning breaks barriers between students and also between educators. Professional development opportunities also encourage collaboration and communication, which can enhance and transform pedagogy.

Global education including intercultural awareness and tolerance are taught within context as students communicate with other students with diverse realities, cultures and religions who share their same basic needs. In essence it develops active citizenship. How better to teach solidarity, reduce stereotyping and discrimination than to bring the students together by working on a project and sharing information, resources, ideas etc....

eTwinning belongs to everyone, from the oldest to the youngest, to both students and educators, of all academic levels, needs, cultures and religions. It is truly - a fully inclusive environment.

Fun project eTwinning award

Wednesday 1st March, was a marvellous, learning experience for young eTwinners attending Mariam Al Batool School. Students who last year were part of the eTwinning project 'Positive Behaviour Practices', were treated to a day out since the project won the "Most Fun Project eTwinning award (2016)"



Their reward was an eTwinning sponsored visit to the Limestone Heritage at Siggiewi, where they had the opportunity to carve beautiful Maltese crosses on stone. This activity was in line with their project, mainly to use and handle tools safely. They also prepared and enjoyed a typical Maltese snack. The children were intrigued with the farm animals and fruit trees on the site. The children loved every minute of it. The project was a collaboration among Ms Doris Schembri, Year 2 teacher at Mariam Al Batool school, ALP students led by their teacher Mr Daniel Spiteri and Ms Mariangela Meli (ex EO for the early years). It reflected a synergy of educators and students working together.



eTwinning

Featured Projects

The following are three eTwinning projects, coming from different sectors of the Maltese educational system that demonstrate how eTwinning can be integrated in our classes. If you would like to know more feel free to contact the National Support or one of the eTwinning Ambassadors.

Daniela Vassallo, Victoria Primary School, Gozo College

CHRISTMAS CARDS EXCHANGE

Every Christmas, my class (4 – 5 year olds) participates in an eTwinning project called 'Christmas Cards Exchange'. This project is organised by a polish teacher and every time the project is open, around twenty schools take part.

Our class makes a Christmas Card for each of the twenty schools and also include some information of how they each spend their Christmas. We also correspond with each other and share photos of our work on Twinspace.



When I start receiving the cards, I place them

all on a large board and together with my students, we mark on a map where the cards came from. This helps the children realise how other people live and where they live. They also come across blessings in different languages and it always fascinates them to hear new different words. Last but not least, it's a great way for us teachers to come together and work together which is a huge enriching experience!

DISCOVER GOZO

On Friday 9th December a group of Form 2 students from Handaq Middle School visited Gozo as part of their complimentary curriculum.

The students were given the opportunity to use the eTwinning tablets throughout the day. They visited the Azure Window, the inland sea at Dwejra, the Crafts village and Cittadella. The tablets truly enhanced the students' experience, since they were focusing all day on capturing the best picture of the beauty of Gozo.



During the lessons which followed, the students uploaded their pictures online, using Twinspace. They all felt so proud and satisfied, sharing their work and photos online.

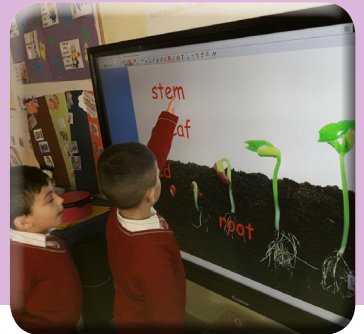
FUN AND CREATIVE LITTLE SCIENTISTS

This e-twinning project is aimed to deliver scientific concepts in a fun manner, by using different learning strategies. This project is being carried out with local and foreign schools. Each partner will carry out different experiments. Hence children will learn different scientific concepts from each other by sharing the experiments and results on twin space.

Two experiments are being carried out by my Year 1 class. One is related to different parts of a plant and the other is about change. I will elaborate on the experiment related to plants.

The children listened to the story of Jack and the beanstalk and then they watched actual beans grow! This was followed up with an interactive game consisting of labelling the different parts of a plant (seed, root, stem, leaves). The children were all excited to plant their own magic bean and observe it grow, whilst recalling the different parts of the plant. For this experiment weekly photos are being taken.

E-twinning helps to make learning effective and fun!



These videos were created:

Smile box:

<http://play.smilebox.com/SpreadMoreHappy/4e4455774e7a51794d54453d0d0a>

Photo story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8YoyOCgJE&feature=youtu.be>

Stop motion: <https://youtu.be/fmzPcoKuVfM>



TOOL of the MONTH

Plickers is a powerfully simple tool that lets teachers collect real-time formative assessment data without the need for student devices.

How does it work?

Each student is given a card with a unique visual code. The code has 4 sides, each lettered A, B, C, and D. The student holds the card so that the letter they choose to answer the question with is at the top of their card. The teacher uses the iOS or Android app on their smartphone to slowly scan the room. The app recognizes the cards, records who the teacher assigned them to, and captures the answer that the student chose. The app will only record each student's answer once, so you need not worry about a second scan skewing your data.



You don't need to be 1:1, you don't need an expensive set of classroom clickers, and you don't need to share devices among your students. All you need is some paper, and an app. The results appear live and in real time on the teacher's device, or they can be projected on a large screen for the whole class to see via the Plicker's website if required.

Don't use laminated cards as you may have some issues in recognizing the code due to the glare from indoor lighting.



For more information
visit **plickers.com**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Learning events:

- *17-27 March: Teaching English differently*
<https://live.etwinning.net/professionaldevelopment/learningevent/22919>
- *17 -29 March: Integration of eTwinning and KA1 projects*
<https://live.etwinning.net/professionaldevelopment/learningevent/22924>
- *17-28 April: The integration of newly arrived migrant pupils in daily school life* <https://live.etwinning.net/professionaldevelopment/learningevent/22921>

Online Seminar: *23 March (18:00 -19:30 CET) eTwinning School Concept*
<https://live.etwinning.net/professionaldevelopment/onlineseminar/25464>

Featured event: *28 March (18:00-19:00 CET): Digital Storytelling: A Technology Tool That Can Enhance Teaching and Learning by 'Creative Classroom' Featured Group* <https://live.etwinning.net/events/event/25530>

School Education Gateway news:

www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/index.htm

March theme: **Mentoring:**

- **News:** Education by all for the well-being of children (<http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/latest/news/education-by-all-for-the-well-.htm>)
- **Publication:** How to Prevent and Tackle Bullying and School Violence. Evidence and practices for strategies for inclusive and safe schools
<http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/resources/publications/how-to-prevent-and-tackle-bull.htm>
- **Teaching material:** My well-being and yours: Respect... begins with me! http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/teacher_academy/teaching_materials/my-well-being-and-yours-respe.htm
- **Education talk (Interview):** Well-being and its application in schools
<http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/viewpoints/interviews/education-talks-wellbeing-an.htm>



Emanuel Zammit

Director

*Digital Literacy and
Transversal Skills*

*[https://manuelzammit.
wordpress.com](https://manuelzammit.wordpress.com)*

I have been eTwinning's legal representative for the past few years now. Although I have never been an eTwinner, as those who get into eTwinning usually call themselves, I have come to believe that eTwinning is an excellent tool that promotes collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, communication, digital citizenship and character education. In a few words it is one of the best tools that you educators have to engage your students and get them involved in their learning. eTwinning has the potential to transform teaching and learning as it offers a platform to reach other educators across Europe and to continue your professional development through networking and training. Through participating in eTwinning, your school will be able to:

- enrich learning and motivation of pupils (aged between 3 and 19) and staff
- access high quality professional development and ready-made resources
- raise standards across the whole school community
- gain recognition for your commitment through eTwinning awards.

Tatyana from the Capital City Academy in London says that if everyone in the world did eTwinning there would not be so much moaning about going to school. While Jacob from the same academy says that the world would definitely be a happier place because it is all about connecting, networking and meeting people. He says that the key underlying objective is to be understanding and the best way to understand people and who they are and what they have to say is through language.

In the meantime allow me to introduce to you the new eTwinning National support service coordinator for Malta Ms Rose Anne Camilleri who shares with us her vision of eTwinning. But before continuing I would like to thank Mr Emile Vassallo Malta's first eTwinning coordinator, his successor Ms Jeanette Cardona and until a few months ago Ms Amanda Debattista and Ms Jacqueline Frendo who all promoted eTwinning to the best of their abilities and resources.