



VSH Update

We hope you had a good half term and your young people are settling in well to new surroundings.

November 2017

“ Welcome to the November edition of VSH Update! The number of children in care using **nimbl** continues to grow, and we are pleased to recognise their progress with the launch of the new **nimblsteps** award (see details below). ”

Rachel Maton, Editor

Introducing the **nimblsteps** award

Are there children in your Virtual School who have made significant personal progress through using **nimbl**? Nominate them for our new **nimblsteps** award and show them that you recognise their hard work! The measure of progress will differ from one child to another: some may have completed all the available courses while other may have only attempted one quiz. Tell us why you believe their personal progress should be celebrated.

Send your nominations to nimblsteps@pearson.co.uk, including the nominees' year group and school, and the reason you think they deserve the award. You can send in as many nominations as you wish. There will be one primary winner and one secondary winner per Virtual School and these winners will go through to the regional finals.

Deadline: **23 February 2018**



Meet Grik the Goblin



Grik the Goblin, the newest addition to *MyLibrary*, is a set of four short stories teaching KS1, KS2 and early KS3 pupils about bullying. These fun, colourful stories follow the adventures of a smart little goblin called Grik, his encounters with bullies Bill and Sam, and the witty ways he outsmarts them.

Short writing activities at the end of each story encourage pupils to think about the issues within bullying, including whether it is right to judge people on their appearance, what makes someone brave or cowardly, what makes people behave in the way they do and whether people are always fair.

There are quizzes for each story to challenge pupils' comprehension skills, alongside ideas for creative activities to complete outside the app.



News: National Care Leavers' Week 2017

Last week was National Care Leavers' Week, established by the Care Leavers' Foundation to bring together major charities and interest groups working with care leavers. This year the theme was 'togetherness' and focused on the ways all those supporting care leavers can achieve even more when they come together. Local and regional events ran across the country from 25 October to 3 November and involved organisations such as Rees, Become, the Prince's Trust and Coram Voice.

In our blog post for National Care Leavers' Week we looked at a 2016 National Audit Office report that outlined the biggest challenges care leavers faced, including housing, finding a job, mental health and crime. We also listed some useful free resources for care leavers, including our own free app Foundations, and how they can support the transition to independence, from mental health support to advice about rights and housing.

You can read the full blog post here: pearson.co.uk/blog/care-leavers-the-shocking-statistics. For more information about our free app, *Foundations*, visit www.pearson.co.uk/foundations or email info@pearson.co.uk.



A growing community

Virtual schools now using *MyLibrary*:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Barking & Dagenham | • Dudley | • Middlesbrough | • Stockport |
| • Barnet | • Durham | • Milton Keynes | • Suffolk |
| • Bexley | • East Riding | • Newham | • Surrey |
| • Birmingham | • East Sussex | • Norfolk | • Sutton |
| • Bournemouth | • Gateshead | • North Lincolnshire | • Tameside |
| • Bracknell Forest | • Gloucestershire | • Northumberland | • Telford & Wrekin |
| • Brent | • Greenwich | • Oldham | • Thurrock |
| • Brighton & Hove | • Hackney | • Oxfordshire | • Torbay |
| • Bromley | • Hammersmith & Fulham | • Pembrokeshire | • Tower Hamlets |
| • Buckinghamshire | • Hampshire | • Peterborough | • Wakefield |
| • Cambridgeshire | • Harrow | • Plymouth | • Walsall |
| • Camden | • Havering | • Poole | • Waltham Forest |
| • Cardiff | • Herefordshire | • Portsmouth | • Wandsworth |
| • Central Bedfordshire | • Hillingdon | • Reading | • West Berkshire |
| • Cheshire East | • Hounslow | • Rochdale | • Westminster |
| • Cheshire West & Chester | • Islington | • Sandwell | • West Sussex |
| • City of London | • Kensington & Chelsea | • Sheffield | • Wiltshire |
| • Cornwall | • Kent | • Slough | • Windsor & Maidenhead |
| • Coventry | • Kingston upon Hull | • Solihull | • Wokingham |
| • Croydon | • Lambeth | • Somerset | • Worcestershire |
| • Cumbria | • Lancashire | • Southampton | |
| • Darlington | • Leicester City | • Southend | |
| • Derby City | • Lewisham | • Southwark | |
| • Doncaster | • Luton | • St Helens | |
| • Dorset | • Merton | • Staffordshire | |

New additions

• Sandwell

Find out more

Contact Jacquie at Pearson Publishing to make an order, request a brochure or arrange a free visit from us. You can also find out more at: www.pearson.co.uk/virtual-schools.

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