

## Happy Holiday to everyone and Best Wishes for 2004

DfES Videoconferencing in the Classroom Project - [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com)

What a brilliant year. The list of friends we've made is extensive. The places we've been to and the hospitality we've received from colleagues around the world has made 2003 very special. So what's in store for 2004? Well it the fourth anniversary of the Global Leap Project so we'll be celebrating that. I have a wish list of places to visit and people to see. So I hope my wishes for the New Year come true.

I hope your wishes for 2004 come true as well.

Please make sure ALL your teachers at your school are aware of the sessions they can book with the museum and gallery programme. There is no cost to the school for these sessions, apart from your call costs.

The Museums and Galleries programme offers a wide variety of videoconferencing sessions to schools, suitable across all key stages. Look at the list of events available, currently over 320, and book a session or two for your class.

Make sure ALL the teachers in your school know about these events and opportunities.

There are so many exciting projects going on. Lots we know about, and lots more where teachers are using the Global Leap resource and to make links to colleagues to add value to their lessons. Congratulations on your success and good luck with your plans for the future.

Share your stories with all of us please.

A couple of reports from our schools arrived on my desk in the last few weeks.

Recently the Project was able to arrange for two schools in the UK to visit the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, Australia. Getting up at 6:00am and having breakfast in school might not be the regular thing to do, but doing something a little special is very exciting. Langleywood School, Slough, UK reported "There are few things that are more rewarding than children being so motivated that they arrive at school at 05:30 in the morning. Jane Devereux reported that some of the pupils and their parents had walked several miles to be there for the "DIVE". Imagine watching the diver and asking him if the shark always sleeps at the bottom of the tank. "Let's wake him up", suggested Fred Nucifora. So Fred grabbed hold of the shark's tail, and 30 pupils and their teachers nearly jumped out of their skin 12,000 miles away in Slough, UK.

At East Wittering Junior School, East Sussex, UK, Stephen Potter reported: "Imagine being under the water on the Great Barrier Reef, on the other side of the world, and in yet in your own classroom in a small Primary school on the South Coast of England. Year 5 and 6 from East Wittering School and their

parents, woke early to be part of a video conference with the Great Barrier Reef Education Officer. "It was well worth the 6 o'clock start" said Charlie, "we saw the real Nemo", a small anemone fish with distinctive orange and white strips. After a 10 minute introduction from Fred we all held our breath and dived into the amazing crystal clear waters of the reef with Caroline, our diver and camera person for the hour long session.

A riot of colour and texture filled our classroom and questions rattled from the children and were instantly answered via a microphone in Caroline's mask. Pupils were amazed to see Black Tipped Reef Sharks swimming in the background and witnessed star fishes stomachs enveloping their prey. A Massive Maori Reef fish swam into view causing the audience to gasp.....The HMI inspector who sat in on the subsequent literacy lesson, where pupils wrote up their experience in the form of a recount, agreed that it would be difficult to find a better activity to motivate pupils to put pen to paper."

John Blaser in Eastchester School District, New York worked with schools in the UK and Italy to discuss major world issues. This technology is awesome! We learned about local conservation projects on Mersea Island, near Colchester, Essex and heard what young people in Florence think about democracy, Should it be imposed or earned?

Video Conference 10/12/03

A report from: Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari and the National Maritime Museum  
Leisure and tourism AVCE Customer care.

We had a very interesting and informative link up with the National Maritime Museum. The 50 minute session involved an introduction to the Museum by the Education Officer including a PowerPoint presentation and a question and answer session with the Deputy Head of Visitor Services.

The students came away from the session with an abundance of valuable information and were very keen to do it again.

As a school in the South Wales Valleys, we have some trouble getting visits to places of international significance. This was a great opportunity to get information on an important and historic site without all the expense and hassle of going to London.

The Museum provided us with materials prior to the link and there was plenty of relevant information on their very good web-site.

All the people we dealt with at the Museum were friendly and the whole process of setting up the link proved to be very easy and problem free.

We can't wait to do it again and hope to set up another link with the Museum to support the Marketing Module.

So thanks to all at the National Maritime Museum and Global-leap for an excellent Video Conference.

Non Wilshaw (Head of Business Studies)

(to book a session for your class, visit [www.global-leap.com](http://www.global-leap.com))



Lynda Wade at King Edward VII School invites you to read about her - Video Conferencing Club at: [http://community.ke7.org.uk/sites/vc\\_club/index.php](http://community.ke7.org.uk/sites/vc_club/index.php)

In January 2004 Videoconferencing in the Classroom/Global Leap will again be at an education show at Olympia in London, UK. The BETT show is one of the biggest technology shows in Europe. If you are coming to London you can join us at the show on **Stand Z25**. If you want to join us on the stand, via videoconference from your school, to meet visitors, let me know. You can pick up your copy of the newly re edited and updated book, "Video Conferencing in the Classroom", written by Tim Arnold, Steve Cayley and Mike Griffith. This is free to teachers. The latest addition of the newspaper will also be available on the stand.

**The BETT Show, OLYMPIA is January 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2004.**  
[www.bettshow.co.uk](http://www.bettshow.co.uk)

**Best wishes to everyone enjoy the holiday and best wishes for 2004**

**Mike**

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Videoconference Help and Support for schools (Technical and Curriculum content and application).

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