

South Otterington Primary – Flora the Travelling Bear



Flora's room was created as a record of her visit to South Otterington and as a starting point for discussions with a partner school. The room was created along the course of a recent geography topic "Where We Live," and was intended to allow children from both schools to explore how two school communities compare.



The Plan

A travelling bear named Flora is going on 'exchange' at another local school, linking students together and helping learning to come alive at South Otterington Primary. Flora's room was created as a record of Flora's visit to South Otterington and as a starting point for discussions with a partner school.

This 'Travelling bear' project is also used to introduce the children at South Otterington to the Fronter learning platform. The school has only recently adopted Fronter and Class 2 were the first class to start using it. The room was designed to allow them to practise basic skills such as following hyperlinks, using sound buttons and participating in forums. The children were able to consolidate their skills through peer tutoring.



The Impact

'We have successfully linked our school with another local school through Fronter, and are keen to continue linking to other schools, including an international school in Cairo for September 2010.' (Kate Williamson, head teacher)

Sharing Experiences

The children have communicated through forums; comparing the two communities and sharing stories they have written. This project is ongoing and we look forward to learning more about our link school as Flora visits them next term and they create their own room. Using Fronter facilitated the link and allowed the children to explore a contrasting community at school and in their own time at home. Sharing pictures and communicating directly with children from another school, via Fronter, made the experience much more meaningful and much more exciting

The screenshot shows the Fronter website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for Today, My Messages, Contacts, My Calendar, Pupils' e-Portfolios, Learning Net, and Access North Yorks. Below this is a search bar for 'Flora's Room' and a user profile for 'Miss Brown'. The main content area displays a lesson titled 'How do we get to school?'. The text reads: 'Children in Class 2 live in many different villages and towns around South Otterington. We don't all travel to school in the same way. We made a table and then thought about different ways to record our results.' Below the text is a table and a bar chart.

Transport	Number of People
Walk	9
Car	13
Bus	2
Taxi	1

To the right of the table is a bar chart with four bars representing the transport methods: Taxi (1), Bus (2), Car (13), and Walk (9). The bars are colored yellow, green, and white. The x-axis is labeled 'Taxi', 'Bus', 'Car', and 'Walk'.

'The project has been an exciting way to introduce Fronter to our KS1 class. They have enjoyed interacting with the bear via Fronter and in doing so they have acquired basic Fronter skills. The children were motivated by the technology and Flora and greatly enjoyed receiving replies on forums. As the first class in our school to adopt Fronter, they will consolidate their skills by peer tutoring other classes.'

Kate Williamson
Head teacher

Increasing Parental Engagement

Introducing and using the room for a topic has given parents a greater understanding of the learning taking part in the classroom. It has also encouraged and enabled them to support their children in continuing this at home. Feedback from pupils and parents has been very positive. Children from Class 2 took part in a parents' meeting to introduce Fronter to the rest of the school, where they told the audience what they had enjoyed about using Flora's Room.