

Teaching matters

≡ Articles and opinions on primary teaching, with tips and ideas for the classroom ≡

Professional information online

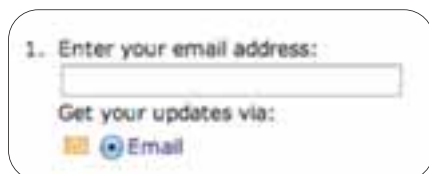
Tips and opportunities

The Internet is a rich source of teaching tips, tools and applications with potential for use in the classroom. As professionals in the classroom, teachers decide what sites/applications will be used to enhance teaching and learning. Scoilnet is our national portal at www.scoilnet.ie and is a great source of links to sites aligned with curricular objectives. We also source information to enhance teaching and learning outside of Scoilnet from a limited number of websites/blogs initially and so information management is not an issue. Sites and blogs can be bookmarked in the browser you are using for reference later.



Adding a bookmark from the Chrome browser

Another option is to subscribe to blogs of interest by email. You will receive updates from the blog in question to your email account.



Subscribing to a blog

After subscribing to a number of blogs, the inbox of your email account can be quickly populated with a deluge of postings from your blogs of interest. One of the most popular applications for managing web links is *Symbaloo* whereby popular sites can be managed by on-screen folders and visual 'tiles'.

New folders can be created and named. All links relating to this topic can then be collated neatly and visually within the folder.



Managing popular digital storytelling creation sites

Flipboard at www.flipboard.com (iOS, Android, Windows app as well as website) facilitates the curation of all preferred information feeds to one location for easy access on a daily basis. This can be likened to the creation of your personal magazine bringing together all your favourite sources of articles.



www.flipboard.com

The articles are easy to read from this interface and associated pictures/ images are included in the preview. A further advantage of *Flipboard* is the ability to follow Twitter hashtags and accounts.

No teacher should feel they are living in professional isolation. There are ample opportunities to gather ideas from like-minded professionals. For anyone with an interest in the applications of ICT in education, the appropriate INTO/IPPN/CESI mailing lists are a must.



There are also a number of subject/methodology related groups on *Edmodo* (the online platform for teachers). Twitter is also a great way to make connections with organisations and individuals. Knowing who to follow is key, otherwise you can find yourself wading through a lot of diverse information in the hope of finding the nuggets of golden information hoped for at the outset. In this era of information abundance at our disposal, we have an array of fantastic tools to assist us.

A good place to pick up even more ideas and to form communities of practice in relation to the use of ICT in the classroom is at a PDST Technology in Education face to face summer course facilitated through your local education centre. We are delighted to offer nine face to face ICT summer courses for summer 2016.

Contact your local education centre to see the PDST Technology in Education courses they are offering and the venues for same.

A core component of all courses is the maintenance of a learning log/ePortfolio of your work, which will incorporate learning from the course to help you appreciate the benefits of an ePortfolio for student led, self-directed learning.

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