# LOCAL INFANTS SCHOOL WINS NATIONAL e-LEARNING AWARD

**Thames View Infant School** has won a national e-learning award in recognition for the work it does to ensure children have access to technology to help them with their studies.

The prize has been awarded by leading education charity, the e-Learning Foundation.  It recognises that the school uses technology to ensure pupils' engagement and motivation to learn is significantly increased at home as well as at school through a Home Access programme.   The judges' panel, chaired by Lord Jim Knight, former Schools Minister, praise the school for using social networking tools and other technology that children are using such as the Nintendo Wii.

Access to technology at home has been proven to significantly influence educational outcomes, yet there are still over a million children in the UK without home access to a PC and the internet for their studies. The e-Learning Foundation Awards highlight bold and innovative thinking in e-learning, rewarding schools which work to overcome the digital divide.

The award will be presented at the e-Learning Foundation's conference in Manchester.

**Valerie Thompson, Chief Executive, e-Learning Foundation said:**

"We were hugely impressed by what Thames View Infant School has achieved. Headteacher, Paul Jordan, and his team have really succeeded in pulling everything together that is at their disposal to make learning engaging.

"This school has taken what ICT offers and applied it across the school and extended it to home and the role of parents. Our winner has gone beyond simply having loads of laptops and has really integrated technology into the learning. Something done on the computer in the classroom might end up as the bedtime story that night."

Suzy Waters, the School's Curriculum Leader, added, "ICT is seamlessly embedded throughout the school.  It's pivotal in engaging 'parents as partners' and helps to empower to children - offering them an ever-more rich and increasingly personalised provision.  Its all part and parcel of what we do to help every child and their family achieve their very best".

**Notes to Editors**

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**About the e-Learning Foundation:**

The e-Learning Foundation was launched in 2001, to ensure that every schoolchild in the UK should have home access to learning technologies when and where they want to learn.

The Foundation, a registered charity, aims to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all children, irrespective of their background, can have the same access to technology for learning at home as their better off peers.

The Foundation is funded through commercial sponsorship, grants and donations.  www.e-learningfoundation.com

**About the Award:**

**Primary School of the Year**
This category will be awarded to the Primary school that have delivered an exceptional home access project and can demonstrate success through a high degree of engagement from staff, pupils and parents and where their results can be clearly seen in performance and results.

**Entry Criteria**
The school will be able to demonstrate a clear vision for ICT and Home Access that is clearly moving to a point of universal access. This will incorporate a sustainable strategy across the whole school and into the wider community. Key areas of interest to the judges will include:

**Pupils**
Evidence to show how the e-Learning programme has significantly improved children's learning at home as well at school and makes a significant contribution to communication between pupils, staff, parents/carers, governors and others to assist this.

A clear demonstration that pupils learning, attitudes, engagement, interest, motivation is significantly increased at home as well as at school through their Home Access programme

Evidence of a fully inclusive approach.
**Parents**
A demonstration of how their e-learning programme has significantly increased parent partnerships and that they have achieved successful engagement and support of the parents in both the launch and the ongoing implementation.
Evidence that they are constantly working to improve parent partnerships with help, advice, information and support with regards to home access including e-safety training, IT skills training etc.
**Staff**
Staff should show a high degree of engagement in the project and have implemented changes in their planning and teaching to ensure school and home access is used meaningfully and developed.
Staff are encouraged to be innovative and undertake innovative projects and practices to help develop teaching and learning through the home access programme.

Their Home Access programme has been integrated into the broad curriculum that enables pupils to apply and develop their ICT capability across all subjects and to continue to develop them at home.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating
The programme is systematically monitored and evaluated with findings being used to evolve the child's use of ICT whilst they are at home as well as at school and shows improvement in teaching and learning.
The school can demonstrate that staff skills and capabilities are monitored, evaluated and that schools implement effective CPD to ensure effective, meaningful, creative opportunities for the staff to implement.

Evidence that the school has embedded their home access programme into their School Improvement Plan.