



Comenius School Partnership 2013-2015

Briefing Paper



Proposed Title:

Frog, Squirrel, Cow and their 5 Mysterious Friends

Concept:

a two year project in which children aged 3-7 will be able to learn from their European partners across 8 settings about story, relationships, culture and the natural world around them.



Definition: Preschools and schools from Sweden, Germany, Latvia, Slovenia, the Netherlands, the UK and Belgium will acquire and share learning between children in the 3-7 age range. Each school will choose a mascot which is “theirs” – a beaver (Latvia), squirrel (Sweden), hedgehog (Sweden), frog (Holland), fox (Belgium) concrete cow (MK!), dormouse (Germany) and mountain goat (Slovenia). These mascots will be the teachers and carriers of information between 7 project visits. A box for each animal will contain progressively larger amounts of information as each school contributes, until we get our “original” box back in 2015. This box will include

- Stories of what happens when different animals meet each other (PSHE and friendship focus)
- Exploration of the natural environment of the animal, with reference to our country.
- A cumulative story as each animal explores Europe
- Information on 6 cultural focuses that will be studied between each of the 7 project visits.

Project visits (3 in the first year, four in the second): It is the intention that all 17 staff in Foundation/KS1 will have the opportunity to travel to at least one of the partner settings over that period. This may be difficult to manage or fund, but it is the intention. We will be visited in March 2014.

Staff learning: we have a subsidiary aim to explore and learn from early years settings across 6 continental European countries – there will be opportunities to teach in each other’s classrooms and work with one another’s children – so be prepared to learn some language at least! The overall project language is English.

Coordination: Huw is the overall project coordinator for all 8 applicants. Michelle will be the team leader within the school ensuring that the work is completed and that we keep a flow of information between staff.

Timescale: Application to be with national agencies across Europe by 21 Feb 2013. Decision in June. If successful, project starts in September 2013. First project visit (Belgium) in November 2013. Final project visit (Netherlands) May 2015.

Participants: The participating applicants are:

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| • Christ the Sower Primary School | Milton Keynes, UK (3 – 11 years) |
| • Vrtec Najdihojca | Ljubljana, Slovenia (1 – 6 years) |
| • Stjanbildsgatan forskola | Göteborg, Sweden (1 – 5 years) |
| • Salladsgatans forskola | Helsingborg, Sweden (1 – 5 years) |
| • Kindergarten Hausen | Krauchenwies, Germany (3 – 6 years) |
| • Edugo Lourdes Meerhout kindergarten | Oostakker, Belgium (2 – 6 years) |
| • Alsungas pirmsskolas izglitibas iestade | Alsunga, Latvia (2 – 7 years) |
| • OBS De Fugelflecht | Franeke, Netherlands (4 – 12 years) |