



“a positive impact on the way we teach”

Promethean help

Mead Vale Primary School

“Keep pace with the rapidly evolving market without any extra expense.”

- A board in each of the classrooms
- Gain and maintain pupils attention
- Benefit from the interactive classroom technology



Mead Vale Primary School



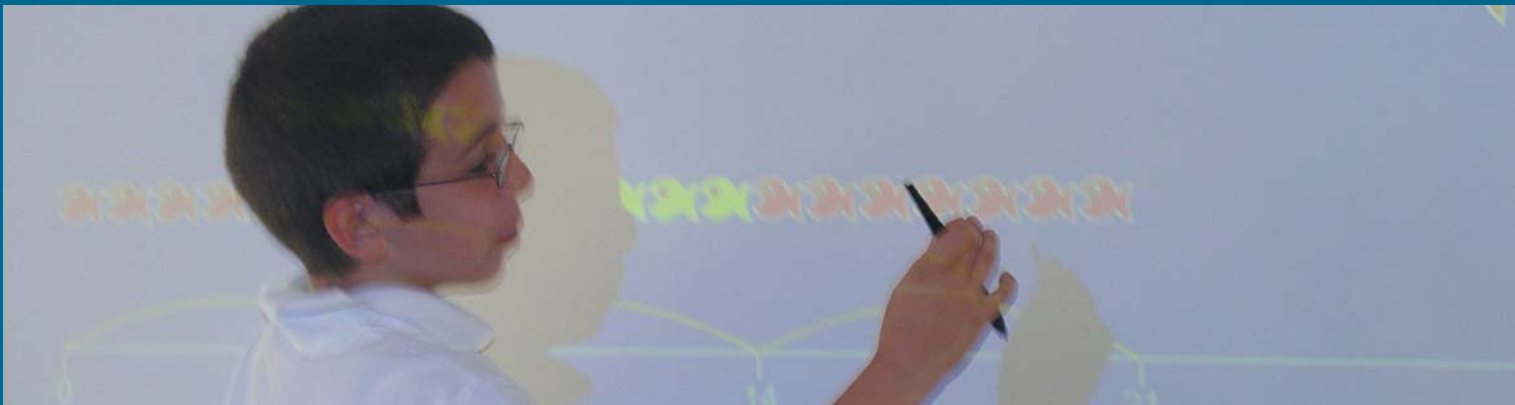
The Challenge

In 1999 a pilot scheme run in collaboration with Weston Super Mare Education Action Zone was established to help introduce interactive whiteboards into schools across Northern Somerset. As one of four schools participating in the scheme, Mead Vale was able to install their first Promethean ACTIVboard and become one of the first primary schools in the area to benefit from the classroom technology.

Jeff Bateson-Winn, Head of the 420 strong school was quick to see the potential of the boards to increase learning and maintain children's attention. He comments: "When working with younger children it is more

difficult to both gain and maintain their attention. The interactive nature and visual content of the boards helps to captivate them and as a result they begin to learn without realizing they are being taught."

In no time at all Jeff set his sights on installing a board in each of the classrooms, but given the lack of ICT strategic planning, this was not something which could be achieved overnight. Undeterred by the challenge, Jeff put together a plan and careful budget that would, over the next few years see an ACTIVboard installed, first in each year group and then one in each classroom.

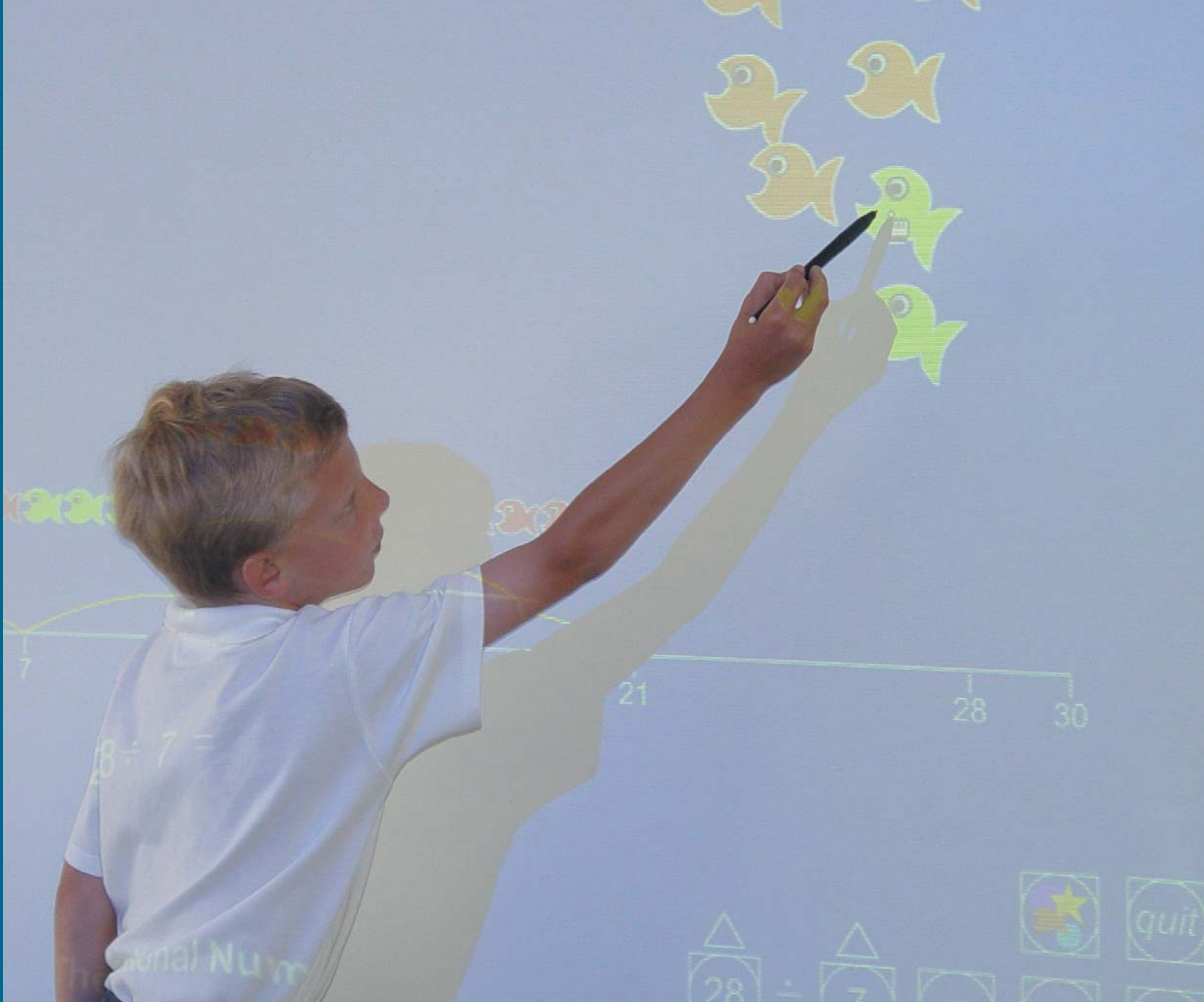


The Solution

The initial purchase of one mobile whiteboard and projector was made possible by EAZ funding but any further investment was left entirely to the discretion of school management. It didn't take long for Jeff to propose that further investment in the interactive technology was the only way forward, which meant a decision had to be made as to which brand to choose. Careful consideration led Jeff to opt for the Promethean solution, he explains why: "Promethean boards win hands down over other manufacturers, mainly because of their software resource package. Regular updates, which are free of charge, enable us to keep pace with the rapidly evolving market without any extra expense. The ACTIVprimary software in particular has had a positive impact on the way

we teach our children and is used just as enthusiastically by our Key Stage 1 staff."

Their steady investment in the technology has led Mead Vale to take a different approach to its use whereby each teacher has their own board as opposed to sharing between classrooms. It is such forward thinking towards interactive classroom technology that has resulted in Mead Vale using the boards as an everyday teaching tool and not just for ICT. Significant investment in remote peripherals such as ACTIVslate and ACTIVote has enabled teachers to enhance the whole group learning experience and demonstrate Mead Vale's commitment to fully immersing the school in interactive technology.



The Benefits

Since September Mead Vale, a Beacon Primary School, has had over a hundred visitors, the majority of which have been to see the ACTIVboards in action. As well as raising the profile of the school, the Promethean solution has dramatically reduced planning time for teachers because most of the material used in lessons can now be accessed online. Jeff comments: "Interactive whiteboards are being seen as a huge improvement in teaching resources – they are the best tool available on the market and when linked to the Internet bring the most amount of material to the teachers' fingertips with the least amount of effort."

Mead Vale is also reaping the rewards of its

investment in terms of results, Jeff explains: "Year on year our SAT results have noticeably improved, and we consistently perform better than the national average in the National Curriculum Tests taken at 11 years old, and have achieved A* against all schools nationally in 2002. 100% of our Year Six pupils both in English and Maths are now reaching level four or five, this has been achieved alongside our investment in the Promethean solution."

Benefits of the Promethean solution do not stop there, Jeff continues: "The back up support from Promethean has just been excellent. It has made a real difference having them on hand, especially in the early stages when everybody was getting to grips with the technology – definitely no selling and running here!"

The Future

Over the past four years, Mead Vale has moved on from purchasing just one mobile whiteboard and one projector to having a total of twelve boards installed throughout the school. With a further two boards currently on order, special needs, all Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes will soon have a whiteboard dedicated to their education. Jeff concludes: "I think it is important to remember that a massive injection of money is not needed to be able to bring this technology into a school. It has only taken us four years to get where we are now, and at each step of the way we have benefited greatly from our investment."

“About Promethean”

Promethean is dedicated to the development and supply of ICT solutions as teaching tools in the classroom to accelerate learning gains across the whole curriculum.

Promethean systems create an interactive teaching environment that enables multimedia delivery to whole groups.

A UK manufacturer, Promethean offers full installation, full system training, hot-line support

by telephone and e-mail, in-field support and repair. We provide the complete solution to education, distance and flexible learning, collaborative working and training.

Solutions include:

ACTIVboard Interactive Whiteboards, ACTIVstudio multimedia software and ACTIVision video-conferencing systems.

Wide format displays for data and video and all encompassing solutions for presentations.



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