



# The eTwinner

December 2020

Issue No. 12

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



*Dear eTwinners,*

This has truly been a challenging year for all of us. Notwithstanding eTwinning has supported teachers and students all across Europe.

It has provided the tools and virtual space to keep in touch and collaborate on projects which complemented and strengthened teaching and learning in their classrooms or for most of the time, online.

We also experienced the shift of most eTwinning events from face-to-face to being held virtually. This did not deter the high standard of workshops and participating attendees. To name a few:

- eTwinning Annual Conference  
-Classrooms in action:  
Addressing climate change with eTwinning
- eTwinning Schools Conference  
- Shared Leadership
- eTwinning Mediterranean Seminar – Saving Our Blue!  
- hosted by Malta for our European partners

- Empowering future teachers with eTwinning

- eTwinning Ambassadors Professional Development Workshop

We are proud to note that the Maltese eTwinning NSS and Ambassadors held workshops or assisted the CSS in the organization of all of these events reflecting a high level of professionalism and dedication.

The success of eTwinning has also been reflected in the amount of National Quality Labels awarded amounting to over 100 educators and the prestigious European Quality Label which was awarded to 14 projects and many more educators. The projects are evaluated against the 5 criteria set centrally to ensure a high level of excellence and thus indicate the project has reached national and European standards. So well done to all!

**Dr Rose-anne Camilleri**  
*National eTwinning Coordinator*



[etwinning@ilearn.edu.mt](mailto:etwinning@ilearn.edu.mt)  
(356) 2598 1568

[etwinningmalta.net](http://etwinningmalta.net)  
[digitalliteracy.skola.edu.mt](http://digitalliteracy.skola.edu.mt)

# THE EMERGENT CURRICULUM AND eTWINNING:

## *Reshaping Early Years Theory and Practice in a Digital Age*

*Dr Charmaine Bonello,*

Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education, University of Malta

On the 26th of November 2020, I had the honour to present during the eTwinning Online Conference – *Empowering future teachers with eTwinning* 24-26 Nov 2020, with a professional kindergarten educator and eTwinning Ambassador Ms Charmaine Attard! I would like to thank Dr Rose-Anne Camilleri (NSS eTwinning Malta) for this opportunity.

The presentation provided the audience with the opportunity to look back at early years theory and school approaches in early 20th century, and move forward with practical examples of how the emergent curriculum is being merged with eTwinning pedagogy in Ms Charmaine Attard's kindergarten classroom. The discussion served as a time machine as we

travelled between the past, present and future, to collaboratively reshape, reimagine and rethink early years theory and practice in a digital age.

Work of BA ECEC 3rd year students at the University of Malta was also shared. The graphics they created showed what they learned and how they perceive the merging of pedagogies underpinning the Emergent Curriculum and eTwinning. Link to presentation: <https://bit.ly/3lInrvs>

**THE EMERGENT CURRICULUM AND ETWINNING:  
RESHAPING EARLY YEARS THEORY AND PRACTICE IN A  
DIGITAL AGE**

**The focus of this presentation:**  
How pedagogies underpinning the emergent curriculum and eTwinning converge knowledge, skills and practice to empower educators and promote young children's learning in a 21st century Maltese kindergarten setting.

PARALLEL SESSIONS: TTI Online Conference (26th November, 2020) by Dr Charmaine Bonello & Charmaine Attard (Malta)  
[www.etwinning.net](http://www.etwinning.net)

The poster features a central graphic with the text "ALL CHILDREN HAVE BRIGHTS" above a group of diverse children. To the left is a photo of a teacher and child, and to the right is a photo of a classroom. The eTwinning logo is at the bottom right.

## Reflect on the Past to Create a Better Future

*Our  
eTwinning  
Project*

BIANCA  
BONELLO  
& CATRINA  
GATT

*St. Nicholas  
College,  
Secondary  
School Dingli.*

We are Bianca & Catrina, two students that during last scholastic year we were in class 9.5. We would like to discuss with you, an eTwinning project we participated in. I, Bianca agreed to join because you don't get this opportunity everyday and it sounded like a challenge which I like. I made loads of friends during this project, and even became closer to other friends. I Catrina, joined the project because I thought that it could be a fun activity at school with our friends. I like the fact that it brings a lot of people from different countries together

We worked on this project as part of our PSCD lessons with Ms. Melanie. Cini. We did some of the work in class but we also worked on it at home. Our class worked mostly on the project with students and their teacher Ms. Maria La Porta from the school I.I.S. Alessandro Volta in Nicosia, Sicily, along with other European schools.

The name of the project is *Reflect on the Past to Create a Better Future*. We understood how important it is to learn from the past so that we can improve the present and the future. Let us tell you more about our project. These are some of the topics and activities we did:

### **Our Project Mascots**

Our project Mascots were doves: doves bring peace. We named our handmade dove Vallette, whilst Italy's mascot was called Hope. These mascots kept us courageous and hopeful throughout the project, even in difficult moments.



### **Communication over the years:**

We started the project by sending posters to each other as we looked at different ways of communication. On TwinSpace we voted for the means of communication

we prefer. We had to choose between a) Letters, cards, postcards and stamps or b) Email, skype and chat. B won with 16 votes to 5. I, Catrina prefer the old fashioned way, but Bianca prefers the second choice, as letters can get lost in the post whilst new ways even send you notifications! It's faster to chat.

We discussed how communication has evolved on the TwinSpace forum, some of our Italian friends said that they love the old ways because they are more romantic, but chatting and emails make communication faster today.

### **Letters to Juliet: lessons about love!**

We watched a clip from the film Letters to Juliet which is about a young writer named Sophie who travels to Verona and discovers a letter written by an older woman. She helps her look for her old love until they eventually find him. We think that love has changed from what it was in the past because of new technology, we started expressing our Love by texting or calling. It was better in the old days because you would meet someone, fall in love and stay together and have a family.

### **Healthy Christmas Recipes**

For Christmas we looked for traditional recipes. In our school we found the Imbuljuta recipe. In class we discussed what we could do to make it healthier such as decrease



the level of sugar in it. Italians shared a delicious, sweet and moist Ricotta Cake with a lovely scent of orange and lemon.

### **Stereotypes**

We asked each other what we think about the different nationalities, for example that when we think about Italy, spaghetti and pizza come to mind. We also interviewed a young Maltese woman who is a band conductor. We learnt that we cannot label people by what their country produces and everyone can do the job they'd like to, irrelevant of gender.

### **Internet Safety**

During the project and lessons we learnt a lot about being good digital citizens, we learnt about our digital footprint, our online safety and respecting others online. We in Malta, created posters that we shared whilst in Italy they organised talks.



### **Corona Virus**

Unfortunately, we had to stop going to school and had to do our work from home. We worked using mostly the TwinSpace and Micro-soft tools.



Our teachers decided to show us a clip from the Italian film called La Vita e Bella to show us how difficult situations can be overcome. We used the Friendship Cards from <http://www.friendshipcards.org/> to understand the different feelings of the protagonists in the film and to understand one's feelings during the covid-19 lockdown. We didn't like what happened to this family, who were separated. Guido missed his wife a lot, but we like how Guido risked his life to protect protected his family. Through a game he made his son, work hard and be courageous.

### **Protecting the Environment**

We watched videos about how nature was better with us inside our homes. We discussed what we can do to help the environment, especially now that we have to use masks. We wrote a letter with our eTwinning friends where we said what we would like to do. We also

shared our own photos. I Catrina think that we could always make simple reusable masks. They are very easy to make. You only need a piece of cloth and 2 pieces of elastic bands. They are washable but you need to disinfect them with hot water. Bianca and I created these posters so people could make their own masks and use them



Our eTwinning friends said that we shouldn't be selfish and throw away our masks where we please, that we should buy masks that can be recycled and that we should learn from what happened in the past and protect our planet. They said that we should protect Mother Earth and leave it better than it was before.

### **Hobbies**

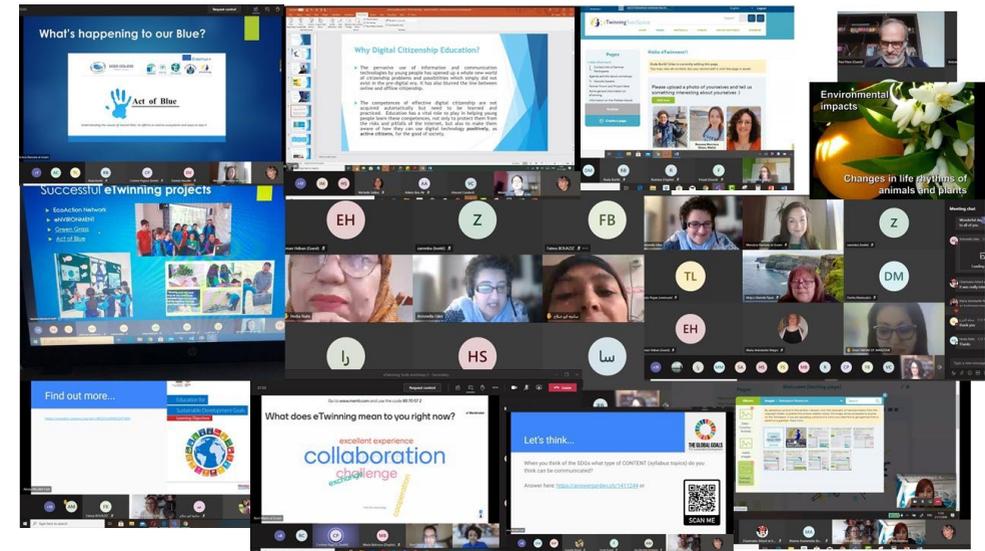
During Covid-19, some of us had to stop doing our hobbies unfortunately. Some of us continued with their hobbies away from people, like myself Bianca, I practiced skateboarding. I Catrina enjoyed baking, I made scones and cake for

my father. We shared our hobbies with our friends on padlet.com

### Bringing it all together:

We learnt a lot through this project, even though we were away from school! It was fun to learn with our friends, especially those from Italy! Technology made it happen. We learnt what the most important things in life are: health, love life and family are the most voted for. We Bianca and Catrina, enjoyed writing this article so much. The project passed by so quickly like a snap of a finger. We're going to miss everyone, especially our friends who made the scholastic year nicer.

We look forward to other eTwinning projects!



# The eTwinning Malta Mediterranean Seminar

## CLIMATE CHANGE: SAVING OUR BLUE!

21<sup>st</sup> November 2020 – Online Event

The Maltese National Support Service with the help of a group of Maltese eTwinning Ambassadors and educators organised a one-day online seminar for educators from 9 different Mediterranean countries. These were: France, Cyprus, Italy, Tunisia, Slovenia, Spain, Croatia, Jordan and Malta.

We were excited to host this event where eTwinners made new friends, added contacts and created projects addressing the issue of Climate Change, Digital Citizenship and our Mediterranean sea.

A preliminary meeting was held a few days before to give the

participants a quick overview of what to expect, how to be prepared for the workshops applied for and also to get know each other. A tour of the eTwinning platform was also included to get the newly registered educators familiar with the tools available.

Profs. Paul Pace from the University of Malta was invited as the key note speaker and discussed the theme of the seminar, how real this is, what scientists say, how it is caused and its impact on our lifestyles. He raised arguments about how “Climate Change” is all over the media and a regular

feature on the political agenda yet the information given is correct at times and misleading at others thus raising more questions than answers.

Following this a number of workshops about the tools available on the platform was delivered by our Maltese ambassadors giving practical insights of their curricular integration.

A partner-finding forum through a padlet was created to enable participants to share their project ideas. This was available from before the seminar and used during and after the seminar. The collaboration and response was fantastic with many project ideas being discussed and created. Link to Padlet: <https://padlet.com/etwinning12/projectideas>

In the afternoon further workshops were delivered covering specific topics and their application in the classroom:

- Climate change, global warming, marine litter and its effects on the natural environment.
- SDG in stem education & eTwinning projects using pedagogies which foster 21st century skills.
- Digital Citizenship Education & eTwinning

The participants amounting to around 60 were all very excited and had words of praise as the seminar workshops assisted them into putting their ideas effectively into practice and integrating eTwinning in their respective classrooms.

Voki is a fun tool children enjoy. It is about creating talking avatars or speaking animated characters which enhance the learning experience. I use voki to capture students' attention and add a pinch of salt to the class environment. It can be used as an introduction to a topic which the avatar can speak out to the students in class to enhance their attention.

Thousands of teachers use voki to enhance classroom instruction, engagement and lesson comprehension. This marvelous website enables you to create animated presentations which are very similar to the common PowerPoint presentations we are familiar with the difference that your slides can speak or make sounds you upload or create.

I can change the character's clothing, hair and eyes and write down a message I want it to speak. Since voki uses nearly all languages, so it can also be used by teachers teaching a foreign language in a

See our character collection!

CREATOR	PRESENTER	CLASSROOM	HANGOUTS
15% FREE	15 DAY TRIAL	15 DAY TRIAL	15 DAY TRIAL

secondary school too. Through Voki Classroom (available only to subscribers), students in your class can have access to voki and they can create their own characters and save them. If you choose to use the free version of voki, you can still create talking avatars and save them when logging in to your account.

I recommend this tool very much because it gives the children a chance to put down their ideas in writing and then hear the avatar speak what they have written.

If you have any difficulties with using voki, do not hesitate to contact me on:

*maria.antoINETTE.magro*  
*@ilearn.edu.mt*