



Ruth Schofield - Blackthorns CP School, West Sussex



Q1 - How has Classroom Monitor helped your staff?

"Staff are able to keep detailed records of pupils learning and achievement in all subjects linked to the national curriculum level descriptors. This gives staff more information to make judgements about the levels of pupils in different subjects."

The inclusion of the APP grids is great and although as a school we have not yet got rid of paper based APP records- we are in the position to begin to integrate the online APP record keeping when we are all more comfortable with the Assessment focuses. It has given staff the ability to see at a glance which areas of the curriculum needs to be addressed again or more thoroughly, and it also gives a good overview of which children need more support.

So in this respect Classroom Monitor is a planning tool as well as an assessment tool. The ability to be able to make detailed notes on individual pupils is invaluable, especially when reporting to others about individuals. It is possible to print out a record of all pupils achievement in all subjects with targets already set- great."

Q2 - How has Classroom Monitor helped you as Senior Management?

"Subject coordinators are able to see at a glance the standards being achieved in their subject across the whole school. In a recent OFSTED inspection it was excellent to be able to refer to the printed data from classroom monitor for standards in science and ICT. The senior management team are finding ways to integrate analysing the data from Classroom Monitor alongside the Assessment Manager 7 package that we have to use for the county and the data from Raise Online and Fischer Family Trust. Classroom Monitor at the moment is used by the senior team as a way of analysing and monitoring standards in foundation subjects as well as English and Maths."

Q3 - When you have needed help with Classroom Monitor how helpful has the technical support been?

"Technical support has been fantastic. In the beginning we needed to ring often, but since we have been working with the program for a few years, the support we have needed has got less. However, we have had the need for training sessions for new staff and the team have made the effort to get to our school for whole days or for just staff meeting sessions. The training has been very thorough and clear- and often the response from staff is 'wow'! Recently as Classroom Monitor has gone online, we had used the helpline again. The response has been swift and each time the niggles we had have been sorted out quickly and successfully. "

Q4 - Would you recommend Classroom Monitor to other schools? And what is the one thing that you would recommend above everything else?

"I would (and have) recommend Classroom Monitor to other schools. It is a quick, simple and effective way of assessing pupil progress in all subject areas including the core subjects. It is already APP compatible and would be a great way of reducing the amount of paper data schools collect. The ability to analyse the data is also easy and quick."

Q5 - What has the reaction been from other parties to Classroom Monitor? Eg Ofsted/Parents/Advisors/Governors etc

"OFSTED were impressed with the way the science and ICT coordinator could access accurate data about standards in their subject interview- this would have been difficult without Classroom Monitor. Governors have been impressed with the facility."

Q6 - Is there anything else that you would like to add regarding your experiences of Classroom Monitor?

"It is important that the whole school really buys into the ethos of using Classroom Monitor, it won't work to its optimum if only a few staff use it. It will be great to monitor individual pupil progress, but it will not be able to give accurate whole school data if there are data sets missing. Blackthorns School has found Classroom Monitor to be an effective assessment, analysis and planning tool for the primary curriculum."

