

Spellodrome

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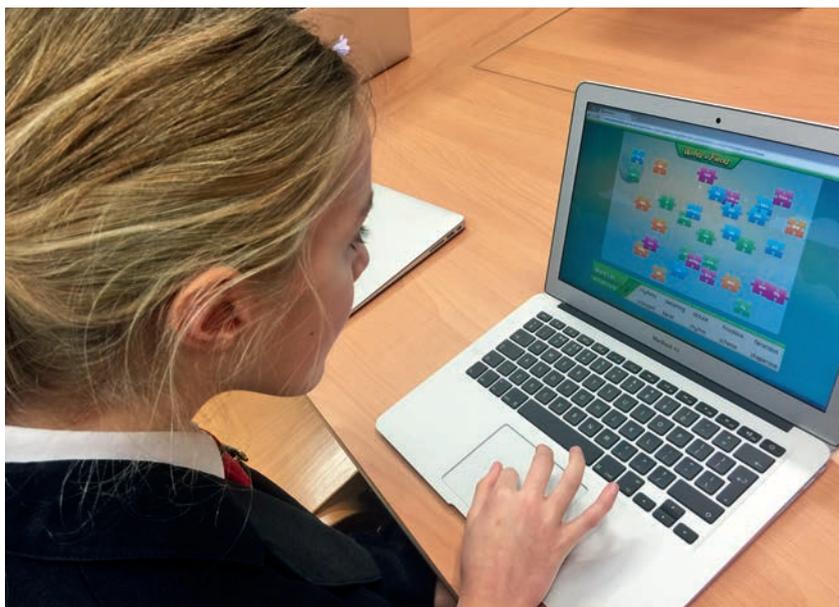
If you've heard of Mathletics, then the chances are Spellodrome will be on your radar too. I had been dipping in and out of Spellodrome for a few years, although not recently. That was until I checked back in with the website to see what was what, and was more than pleasantly surprised to see there have been many changes that add real value. Now, I'm under its spell.

Once you've signed in to the Spellodrome Teacher Centre you're able to access a whole range of tools to enhance children's experience. This is a real power station of dynamic tools, reports and exciting resources. For starters you can easily create classes and ability groups using a simple drop-down menu to add students. For more-intricate manoeuvres, Spellodrome provides a console help guide that can take you through whatever you need to do step by step.

The console lets you set and edit wordlists that have been developed in accordance with the national curriculum's statutory requirements for spelling. You can select by topic or by word, and within topics you can pick whole categories or individual words and drag them over to make your own list of up to 30 spellings (you can create up to 40 lists to save and use). Differentiation is really easy too, letting you assign separate lists to different groups with a click of a button.

But what Spellodrome excels at is assessment, diagnostics and target setting. The system has been set up so that you can instantly assign tests for individual spelling and reading ages, which are then marked automatically. I can hear you cheering from here. The assessment platform within Spellodrome is a real treat, and tracking progress is so much easier as you can access real-time data allowing you to pinpoint weak spots and areas for development.

While Spellodrome is an online spelling programme, there is always learning to be



had away from the screen too. So you'll be glad to find thousands of pages of printable worksheets and workbooks that enable deeper and wider exploration of spellings, comprehension, grammar and language - all of which is great for both class and homework.

It gets even better. Spellodrome has massively expanded to include a range of exclusive visual literacy resources developed in association with authors, illustrators and media providers. They are perfect for supporting learning conversations, higher-order thinking and improving written literacy skills.

For children, Spellodrome is a hub of excitement with plenty to engage them. Activities have been designed to encourage independent learning and develop critical spelling awareness. Wordlists are brought to life with brilliant games and activities such as Word Detective, Words in Pieces and Word List Workout, with bonus games such as Crossword and Find a Word.

There's also something called LIVE Spellodrome (it's the same formula as LIVE Mathletics), a real-time spelling race challenge where children can compete against friends in school and players and around the world. This offers children a fun way to test their spelling powers, increase their speed and boost their confidence. The activities available will make them want to keep playing, so it can also help increase their vocabulary, comprehension and writing.

The clear and immediate feedback, combined with plenty of rewards and recognition, keeps children motivated, and you'll be pleased to know all four areas of spelling knowledge are covered - visual, phonological, morphemic and etymological.

Spellodrome is a powerful resource for teachers and children alike that focuses on empowerment and making spelling a fun and educational experience, and the user-friendliness is something that really stands out. Under the bonnet teachers can easily control what to do by using the console (which boasts a treasure trove of treats). If there is one thing I'd like to see included it's a comprehensive dictionary including sound, so children can check words for meaning.

Verdict: Lost for words

Spellodrome has really evolved. At one time it was quite a basic platform, but now it has gone upmarket, and will give you some sophisticated and classy resources that are bound to make spelling a pleasure, not a burden. It has new content, new features and better games and interactive activities that children really engage with.

Technology is a key driver in supporting pupil engagement in spelling and Spellodrome is one of the best digital platforms available.

