



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: BALMEDIE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ABERDEENSHIRE

## DISCOVERY EDUCATION ESPRESSO: USED IN EVERY CLASS, EVERY DAY

Many schools in Scotland use Discovery Education Espresso to enhance lessons. Dynamic digital content, closely mapped to the Curriculum for Excellence, brings learning to life and supports pupils with additional learning needs. Teachers at Balmedie Primary in Aberdeenshire share why Espresso is such an asset to their school.

### TECHNOLOGY TO ACCESS LEARNING

Headteacher Ken McGowan explains how the school came to Espresso.

***“We’ve invested heavily in technology over the last few years. We have a number of pupils in the school with additional support needs and we find technology really helps them to access the curriculum and enhances their learning. We use technology across the board in our lessons.”***

Nursery teacher Jenny Chalmers says Espresso has helped one of her young pupils to learn to read.

***“I have a little boy who has some learning difficulties. He finds literacy very difficult. We’ve been using an Espresso activity which asks the***

***children to find different letters on the keyboard. It has really helped him pick up the names of letters and by watching other children do this he has really grasped it. It’s absolutely fantastic***

### BOOSTING SKILLS IN CORE SUBJECTS

Harnessing technology to help children grasp difficult ideas is a key benefit of Espresso. At Balmedie Primary School teachers use Espresso’s animated videos to embed learning in core subject areas. Digital games and fun stories help children get to grips with concepts in maths and English. Primary 7 teacher Charlotte Glennie explains:

***“At the moment we are studying fractions, decimals and percentages which is quite a hard concept for children to understand. The videos help them to get their heads around it.”***

Charlotte’s pupils particularly enjoy the online games. Here’s what they have to say:

***“I like the games – especially the dart game in maths, which is really good.”***

***“I like the funny video stories in grammar and punctuation.”***

Go beyond the classroom walls with Discovery Education Espresso. Request a free trial today at: [discoveryeducation.co.uk/trials](http://discoveryeducation.co.uk/trials)

### VIDEO TO BRING LEARNING TO LIFE

The vast Espresso video library has content relevant to every stage of primary school. Charlotte Glennie finds that the clips engage and inspire her pupils, helping the school to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum and bringing the outside world into the classroom.

***“I really enjoy using the Espresso videos. There are lots of videos for every curricular area. Before we used Espresso, I found it really difficult to find good quality clips that would help the children’s learning and develop their thinking and understanding.”***

Charlotte feels that the Espresso clips help her pupils to make real world connections with the topics they are studying.

***“I think it makes it more real for them. Particularly when we studied World War 2 as a topic. They could watch the different videos in the Second World War Resource Box. They could actually see what it was like and it made it more real to them – more than just looking at pictures. They see a lot of pictures. Watching a video makes it real.”***

### FIND RELEVANT RESOURCES QUICKLY

Espresso helps teachers to find the right resources quickly and offers guidance on how to use these in lessons, as Deputy Headteacher Allison Conner explains:

***“It’s very easy to navigate around the Espresso site. It’s divided into curricular areas and everything is there. There are quality video clips, up-to date video clips. There are notes for teachers if they want to find out more information about a particular area, and not only that, there are excellent follow-up materials. Everything is ready to go.”***

### A WHOLE SCHOOL INVESTMENT

Headteacher Ken McGowan sums up his thoughts on the value of Espresso:

***“As Headteacher, I have to make the best use of the limited resources which I have for the school. I’ve got to say that pound for pound Espresso is one of the best resources we’ve got. It’s used every day in every class at Balmedie Primary School.”***