IS FREE

• South Warnborough - The Poacher, Village Shop • Long Sutton - The Four Horseshoes • North Warnborough
Q8 Garage, Lord Darby, Newlyns Farm Shop • Greywell - Fox & Goose • Upton Grey - Village Shop,
• Odiham - Post Office, RAF Odiham, George Hotel, Star Texaco Garage, P & K Electrical • Hook - Old Whit
Crooked Billet, Tesco, Moss Pharmacy, Premier• Hartley Wintney - A.W. Porter, Coach House Garden Centre,
Petfood Kingdom, Victoria Halls, What Not Antiques • Old Basing - Spar Shop • Hanover International
• Well - The Chequers • Crondall - The Hampshire Arms, The Horns, Plough Garage, Plume of Feathers, Cron

A Moroccan Experience for our local schools

Schools in the quiet, rural villages of Odiham, Hook, Long Sutton and Newnham recently began a real journey which will take them into the heart of Morocco over a 3-year period. It will enable them to make real connections with young people from another part of the world and living in a different cultural context. The adventure began with the children doing some initial research into the country and its location in preparation for a visit from a representative of the Moroccan Ministry of Education, Mr Ahmed Mouhy-dine.

This international project was launched at a British Council weekend conference attended by delegates from eight Near East and North African countries - Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and Egypt as well as from the UK. Susan Rafter, headteacher of Robert May's School and Sue Marsh, cluster co-ordinator for the Hampshire schools attended the conference. Susan Marsh said, 'suddenly the conference room was alive and buzzing as all the delegates met for the first time. I was really struck by the sounds of all the different languages I could hear as well as the sight of the really colourful clothes. We spent the weekend getting to know each other and planning our projects and there was such a happy and positive atmosphere. For 3 days I entered another world where I learned so much about these other countries and I stepped out of the bubble on the Monday morning and back into a grey, wet English Monday morning!'

All the UK delegates then took their overseas partners back to the far corners of the country to introduce them to their cluster schools. There were twinnings with Birmingham, Cornwall, Brent, Bradford, Bromley,,Oldham, Gateshead and of course, Odiham in Hampshire! We had prepared a very busy programme for our visitor and in the space of 3 short days he was whisked from school to school where he was warmly received by all the headteachers, teachers and pupils from our cluster schools – Mayhill Junior School (John Gawthorpe), Hook Junior School (Lynn Martin), Greenfields Junior School (Linda Platt), Long Sutton Church of England School (Angie Harding) and Whitewater Church of England School (Matthew Irving). All the teachers commented on how the children were fascinated to meet Ahmed Mouhy-dine and they asked him an amazing range of questions. Susan Marsh said, 'the whole village has been abuzz with excitement about Morocco and I keep meeting parents whose children really enjoyed learning about this country through real contact with our visitor.

On the last day Ahmed Mouhy-dine was received at Robert May's by headteacher, Susan Rafter, and he also met and chatted to Odiham Parish Councillor, Mark Faulkner who had heard all about the amazing Moroccan visit first hand from his son the previous day!

Susan Marsh explained, 'the next stage of our joint project will now begin where we will link up with a cluster of Moroccan schools. We will start by getting to know each other by posting pictures and information about all our schools (in English or in French) on a special safe

British Council E-languages site. Our pupils will be able to see and learn about their partners' schools, their families and their lives and culture in general. We will take photos from our classroom windows and compare what we see, we will learn about each others' festivals, what we like eating, our music and art, geography, religion – everything. The project is so simple yet so powerful and it will connect classrooms not only in Hampshire and Morocco but also across all the other Near East and North African countries and their UK partners involved in the project. It will bring learning alive and increase motivation in the classroom whilst preparing young people for life in a global society. Pupils and teachers will also discover more about their own communities, heritage and identity, working with parents and local community groups.

The programme already connects hundreds of schools in the UK with their counterparts in Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East and aims to link 30,000 schools and two million young people worldwide by 2013.

TWO GUYS
KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

Honeysuckle
EST 1988 INTERIORS
Curtains | Blinds
Fabrics | Haberdashery