

Tweedmouth West First School uses films to boost literacy levels

New report shows film broadens horizons and cultural awareness in isolated rural areas

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Staff and pupils at Tweedmouth West First School have welcomed the impact of a pioneering project set up to boost literacy levels.

It coincides with the publication of a new report which shows watching, discussing and reviewing selected films can significantly increase global and cultural understanding, broaden horizons and improve literacy of pupils in isolated rural areas.

Education charity Into Film worked with the school on its year-long inclusion project, kindly funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

Teacher Anne Rutherford says pupils have benefited significantly as a result of their involvement.

"We are a small first school in a small market town in Northumberland close to the Scottish border," she said. "We are culturally isolated with no cinema or video shop and it is very expensive to travel to the bigger cities."

"The Into Film Inclusion project has enabled me to broaden the children's horizons and give them a taste of what life is like for children in other cultures."

"It exposed the children to film genres which they would be



Reuben Johnson takes charge of the remote control with his Year 4 classmates at Tweedmouth West First School ready for film club.

to Film, an education charity supported by the BFI through Lottery funding. It was set up to provide young people in isolated rural areas with access to culture, increase their global and cultural understanding, raise aspirations and boost literacy.

Film club leaders were an

advisors and supported by teaching resources containing discussion questions, simple filmmaking projects and other activities to enhance screenings.

Into Film also brought the cinema experience to schools in isolated rural areas with its travelling roadshow and

aims pupils were able to discover films they may not have encountered before including foreign and classic films.

Oscar nominated The Secret of Kells, about a boy living in medieval Ireland, was particularly popular; also very well received were Chinese folktale inspired

Identifying new films for teachers to continue the work of expanding pupils' horizons, raising aspirations and boosting literacy will form part of the project's legacy.

Rural Inclusion was one of three strands in the Into Film Inclusion Project; the others were SEN, working with pupils

Over 4,000 children and young people from 139 UK schools took part in the project and over 4,300 reviews were written—many by previously reluctant writers. The independent evaluation was carried out by CUREE, the Centre for the Use of Research and Evidence in Education.

Into Film is a UK-wide film and education charity which puts film at the heart of children and young people's learning, contributing to their cultural, creative and personal development.

Its film clubs are available free to all state funded schools and colleges and provide numerous opportunities for teaching and learning through film, including access to a diverse catalogue of over 4,000 films, dynamic curriculum linked and enrichment resources, guidance for filmmaking and film reviewing, one-to-one club support and training and CPD for teachers.

Into Film, together with funding from the film industry and a number of other sources, incorporates the legacy and staff of two leading film education charities, FILMCLUB and First Light, building on their experience and success in delivering programmes of significant scale and reach to children and young people across the UK.

New educational resources incorporating the project's findings are available to download. Films are free to order for all