

Hilary Alcock from Buntingsdale Infant School and Nursery in Shropshire is the December 2010 winner of the £250 prize draw for accredited teachers.

Hilary completed her MA in Development Education at the International Open University of London and has an established Partnership with Innis Educational Centre, Oboch, Sondu, Nyanza Province, Western Kenya.

Hilary writes: “My school has been developing a global school partnership with Innis Educational Centre in rural Western Kenya for about five years. I have been fortunate to attend a range of training and network sessions organised by the British Council and our local and regional development education centre. These sessions helped me to realise how important it was for me to develop my own understanding of issues relating to partnership working and help others to do the same. As such, I was motivated to undertake a part time MA in Development Education through the Institute of Education at the University of London which I began in January 2009.

This course has been challenging and fun; sometimes a bit daunting but definitely worthwhile. The structure of the course has provided the theoretical background to issues relating to development and education that as a main-stream primary teacher I did not have. Through online working and occasional face-to-face sessions at the University, I have come into contact with a wide range of development practitioners and educators. This in itself has been a fascinating experience. I have been able to use my learning from the course within our partnership working to understand better the dynamics within it and to help facilitate training myself at both schools. I am currently nearing completion of my final dissertation, which is exploring the impact of training and development within global school partnerships. This really has been a learning journey for me...which I hope will continue.”