



WEB WINNERS: Mercy N.S. children and their teacher Joanne Leydon with the award they won for their class blog.

Children get award for telling world about what they do

CHILDREN at the Mercy Primary school in Sligo have picked up a national award for their ability in telling the world of their class activities.

The children won the Best Blog section in the **Junior Spider Awards** which were recently announced at a reception in the Helix in DCU, hosted by RTE's and 98FM's Aidan Power

Teacher Joanne Leydon said: "It was an honour to achieve the **Junior Spider Award** in the Mega Spiders Category. This award has put our school in the spotlight. We also have just begun a whole school blog where each teacher can contribute class work."

Subjects entered on the blog by Ms Leydon's class range from subjects as diverse as 'How does salt melt ice' to 'How to make French toast'.

Ms Leydon said that with new developments in digital literacy many schools and teachers are seeing the advantages of blogging.

"It provides a more collaborative and interesting learning experience updated regularly - certain topics lend themselves well to the blog like school or class events, cookery, podcasting, poetry and interviews.

"We get visitors from all around the world, which is great to connect children, teachers and schools with other school communities in places they may never get to experience first hand.

"They encourage higher order thinking skills such as reflection and analysis but also encourage reading, writing and collaboration."

She said the teaching technology involved is free and easy to use.

It supports video; audio and other media file types this creating a very dynamic learning style.

"The blog creates a link between home and school where children can commit on posts or print out documents used in class."

Mercy Primary uses technology to enhance learning across the curriculum. "The blog serves as a platform, much like the traditional classroom notice board to publish news, events and class work to a wider global audience."

Unfortunately the children were unable to travel to Dublin to collect their award due to the bad weather and poor road conditions at the time. Principal Marguerite Stenson accepted the trophy on their behalf as Ms Leydon was on her honeymoon.

The winning blog can be found at <http://msleydonsclass.blogspot.com>