

## ***Finding Things Out***

### ***QCA Unit: 3C***

#### ***Lesson 3 of 6 - Bring in the Clowns***

**Please note:** You will need to have cloned the 'Clowns' database in preparation for this session. Please see separate instructions on 'How to clone a database'. You will need to clone ALL the records into the new database table.

**Please also note:** As administrator, you will have had to make the **user can add a record** and **user can edit a record** options available to pupils in the cloned database.

**Learning Objective:** I can.....Add information to a database

**Support files:** Clowns database, Clown images.pdf and How to clone a database.

**Setting the scene:** (5 mins)

Share the learning objective with the class.


Explain that today they are going to look at a computer can store information and that information from a 'record card' can be recorded on the computer.

**Main Input** (20 mins)

**Away from the computer:** Recap with the children the vocabulary that they learnt in the last lesson: record, file, field, numeric, text, choice. Use the paper based record cards to highlight where these can be found and what they look like.


Quickly discuss with the class how they went about transferring information from the Clown image onto the record card.

**At the computer:** Turn on the monitor and show the children how to log in to **Mydatabase** and find the database they want to use, i.e 'Clowns'. Discuss with the class how this screen looks very similar to the paper record cards they have been using, and that what they see on the screen is also a record card, it is just stored on the computer instead of in a cupboard/filing cabinet etc. When lots of record cards have been filled in the computer will then store the file. This is called a 'Database' – it is the area (base) at which all the information (data) is stored.

Demonstrate to the class how they can navigate forwards and backwards through the records using one of the **View all records in database** options. 

Highlight to the class how the only piece of information currently being stored is the Clown names and that they are going to be given the opportunity to add in the rest.

Using one of the Clown images demonstrate to the class how to fill in the record card on the computer:


1) Select **Edit Record** from the main menu. 

**Note:** As administrator, you will have had to make the **user can add a record** and **user can edit a record** options available to pupils in the cloned database.

2) Explain that the field 'Boy/Girl' presents them with the choices of words available for this field. Explain to the class that when this 'database' was being created on the computer someone put in the words that would be the choices now showing.

3) Select the appropriate choice.

4) Highlight to the children that all but two of the remaining fields have words for them to choose from. The only exceptions are the Sequins and Height field which require them to put in a numeric answer.

5) Finally show them how to add a new record. (Main Menu > Add record ) so they can create a Clown of their own.

### **Activity – short focused task** (5-10 mins)

Each child is given the opportunity to enter the information from the Clown image on to the appropriate record card on the database, and then to add a new record and create some information for their own personal Clown. Remind the class that they will have to first of all navigate within the database to find the record card which matches their Clown image. (If you are teaching in a Computer Suite please refer to the Teaching Points section of this Lesson Plan).

### **Review and recall** (10 mins)

Bring the class together and review the learning objective. Show them the completed database and highlight how now all the records cards have all the appropriate information on them. Ask similar questions to those below. Reiterate the key vocabulary listed below. Explain that in the next lesson they are going to use a larger database to help them find questions to simple answers.

### **Key questions to ask and to display:**

What is a set of record cards called when stored on a computer? (Database) Which icon do we need to click on to edit a record card? (Spanner) Is it easier/ quicker to record information on a computer based record card?

**Vocabulary:** Database, Edit, Navigate, Stored

**Teaching Points:** If you are implementing this lesson in a suite you need to think carefully about how you are going to organise the session. If you have 1 or 2 children working at a computer then when they add in their clown information from the image you have given them the database will not be very full. In fact it will only contain the information of the 1 or 2 clowns

they were given. There are 2 possible solutions to this depending on resources you have available:

- 1) The clown images are kept on a table and each child/pair is given a list of all the names. They will then collect an image from the table, add the information onto the computer, tick the name off of the list and then collect another to start the process again. You will need to make it clear to the class the time limit they have available for this as it is unlikely they will manage to do all of the clowns.
- 2) Use one computer and whilst another activity is going on children take it in turns to come up and put in their clown information. In this instance all the clown information will be stored on the one database.

**Differentiation:** Some children may find it easier to input the information they have recorded on the paper record card instead of from the Clown image.

**Assessment Opportunities:** Can the children use the computer to add information to a record card stored on a database?

**What comes next:** Performing Simple Searches – Lesson 4 ‘Can you find...?’