


Leveraging iPads for Chinese in Schools

London, 13-June-2015

James Trapp, IOE CI
Sole Amian, Better Chinese Teacher Trainer
Gemma Squires, Teacher at Dane Royds in Wakefield



Primary School iPad Lessons



BETTER YCT APPS TO DELIVER A PRIMARY MANDARIN CURRICULUM



Better YCT Apps

- Better YCT is a collection of apps to teach Chinese to Primary students, following Hanban's YCT curriculum. Our learning activities are designed to engage and entertain in the classroom through short stories, songs and funny games.
- Classroom activities promote creativity and collaboration to keep students motivated.



 BetterChinese

Each App has 3 Topics



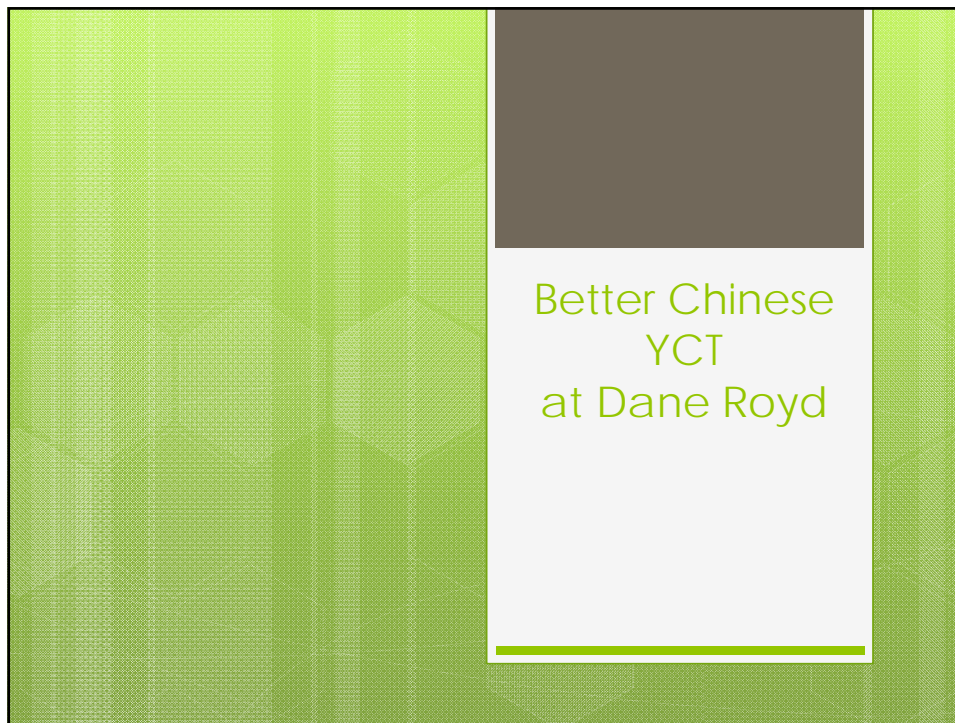
- The three TOPICS follow a common story line. Lala is travelling around China looking for the missing page of her Chinese book. In Each city she is going to listen to a different story.
- Students will be able to get a piece of a puzzle for each completed step. At the end they should be able to complete the full puzzle which is the missing page.

Each topic has 3 areas



- **DISCOVER** area is where all the learning objectives are developed via fun activities. Focused on listening comprehension and speaking.
- **WRITE** area is where the child can practice reading and writing Chinese characters.
- **PLAY** area is full of engaging games where all that the students have learnt in the previous areas is going to be put into practice.





Languages at Dane Royd

MFL is embedded within our school ethos and curriculum.

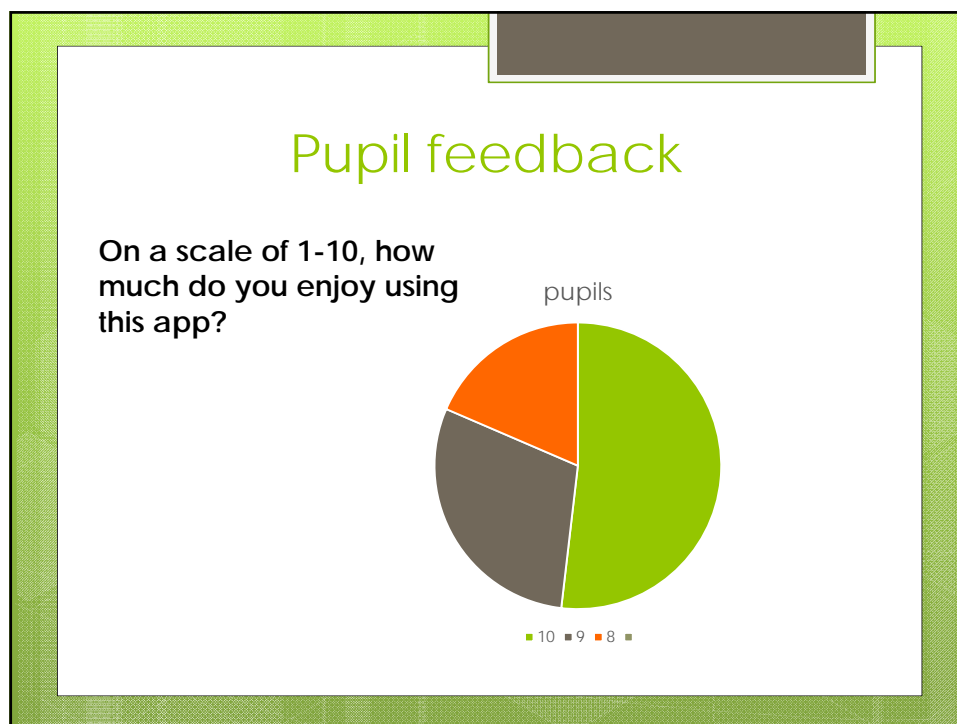
- **Foundation Stage pupils are first exposed to MFL through the 'Little Languages' programme.**
- **KS₁ pupils are taught French**
- **KS₂ pupils are taught French and Chinese.**
- **A Spanish after school club is also offered to students on a weekly basis.**

Using the YCT app

- **Class teacher observes/assists the CLA in the weekly lessons**
- **Year 3 were selected to trial the app, starting in the Spring term**
- **Chinese language assistant and class teacher participated in the training**
- **CLA started the corresponding scheme of work in September, so basic vocabulary had been covered**
- **Increased the lesson time from 40 minutes, to one hour**
- **Initially the class was split into two groups- one to receive oral/cultural lesson from CLA, while class teacher delivered YCT, then swap.**

Class teacher feedback

- **Losing the fear of teaching Mandarin**
- **Gaining confidence, basic vocabulary**
- **Positive impact on the children that the CT is learning with them**
- **Revision/reinforcement of the scheme of work**
- **Children can work through the activities at their own pace**
- **Variety of activities to maintain interest (VA)**
- **Covers all of the key areas of MFL: writing, reading, listening -and *can* improve pronunciation**
- **Cultural understanding**
- **Cross-curricular links can be made**



- ## Which are your favourite activities?
- The games are fun
 - Discover activities -because you learn a lot
 - The stories are interesting
 - Writing activities help us to practise
- ## How does it help with your Chinese learning?
- It reminds me what I have already learnt
 - It helps you to say and read the word
 - It helps with pronunciation
 - I'm starting to be able to write the characters now

How could the app be made better?

- Include even more games!
- Add some songs and rhymes that we could learn*
- We could create a profile or account so you can keep track of your progress

- *You can't improve it, its already great!*
- *Nothing can improve it!*
- *You are very, very clever!*

Questions...