



Newsletter September 2014

Dear Friends of Owlfinch,

We have added many new reading games and also improved Owlfinch in technical and motivational areas:

- Every reading game has been allocated to a fluency level and a grade. This may help with preparing book lists for your students. Please note that the allocation is a suggestion and not a strict specification.
- The picture editor in the students' profiles has been improved and new picture elements have been added. The more points a student collects, the more picture elements are available. In addition to the basic picture elements, a student receives new elements when crossing the 1000 point mark, also at 3000, 5000 and 10,000 points.
- Once a student has earned 5000 points, the teacher can activate the option to view and play ALL available reading games – in ALL available languages .



Please allow me to assist you starting the new school year with giving you some educational advice:

- If you have already have an Owlfinch account with registered students:
 - Do you want your students to start with 0 points? Please register your students again (your students will receive new login data).
 - If you want your students to keep the collected points, you may continue in the same way.



- Owlfinch is a website with emphasis on school partnerships. Please look for a partner – from your country or from another country.
- Please contact us if you need any assistance starting off with Owlfinch, finding a partner or any other Owlfinch matter. Mail us at: info@owlfinch.com or hoffmann@unterreuth.de
- We recommend that you start working with ONE partner class in the beginning. Once things are running smoothly, add another partner school if you like.

Choice of reading games:

- The reading games you choose for your own class should mainly be identical with the reading games your partner class works with. Please get in touch with the teacher of your partner class via email.
- Choose a mixture of easy and more demanding books for your students – ideally a combination of fiction and non-fiction books (Genres: Reading, Knowledge and Read Online) You may want to activate some reading games in 2 languages (native language and English or another foreign language)
- As experience has shown, creating the possibility for your students to exchange emails or letters (i.e. Christmas cards, drawings, games or recipes) with their partner students enhances motivation.
- Try to change the books / reading games regularly (maybe every 2-3 months) in your students' accounts, no matter whether all reading games have been played or not.

I wish you success and enjoyment for the school year 2014/2015. May your work with Owlfinch bear fruit regarding international understanding and contact and joy at reading books.

Best regards,

Albert Hoffmann