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THE DOMESDAY PROJECT: Newsletter

We wrote in November inviting schools to participate in collecting local data for the BBC's DOMESDAY PROJECT: the creation of a new electronic Domesday Book.

We thought you'd be interested in the tremendous response to date: already some 9,000 schools have accepted our invitation. If you have already agreed to take part, towards the end of March you'll receive our comprehensive briefing pack in good time to plan the Summer term. Watch out for more news on 'John Craven's Newsround', 'Micro Live' and 'Zig Zag'.

If you haven't yet decided to take part, the offer is still open. Particularly in rural areas there is still scope for extra help. Although we'll be involving other groups, we want schoolchildren in particular to benefit from this project.

The educational value of the project is confirmed by the seventeen pilot schools around the country. They commented on how the project develops skills in many subjects and also forges new links with the community. One headteacher said, "What amazed me most was the tremendous interest it stimulated in the general public. Local people were keen to offer information and were happy to be interviewed."

Some teachers have expressed reservations about the apparently 'high-tech' nature of the project but have been reassured. The recording of data will certainly involve schools' microcomputers, but via a simple program which will be well-tried, informative and fun to use.

There has been the odd school, too, despite our best endeavours, who hasn't heard from us yet. If this is your situation, please accept our apologies and may we now invite you to take part? Overleaf are further details and a reply slip.

The Domesday Project is becoming a reality. If you are already involved, we look forward to working with you. If you are not yet part of it all, we hope to hear from you soon.