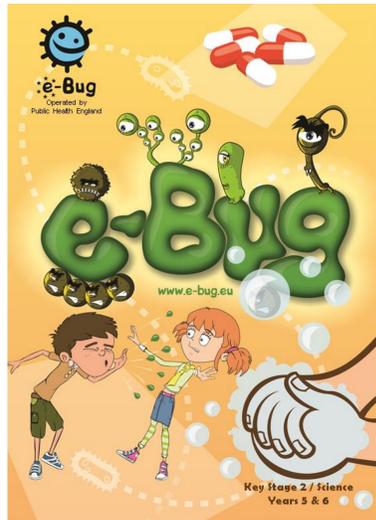


# e-Bug in Malta

## Knowledge on microbes, respiratory infections and antibiotics among school-going children: an educational intervention

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### Education in Malta

Compulsory education covers the ages 5 to 16 years and is divided into two main cycles: primary education (5-11 years) and secondary education (11-16 years). Schools are divided into two categories: state and private schools. The private schools are further sub-divided into church and independent schools. Both offer pre-primary to upper secondary education. All schools are obliged by law to follow the same national minimum curriculum.

To-date, primary school curricula do not explicitly include lessons on microbes, respiratory hygiene or antibiotic use.

### Pilot testing

A pilot test run of the quiz for evaluation was carried out in November 2015. In total, 47 students participated. They represented two schools, an all-boys and an all-girls school. Just over half were boys (51%). Age ranged from 8 to 10 years (mean: 9 years) in both.

The quiz was divided into three sections:

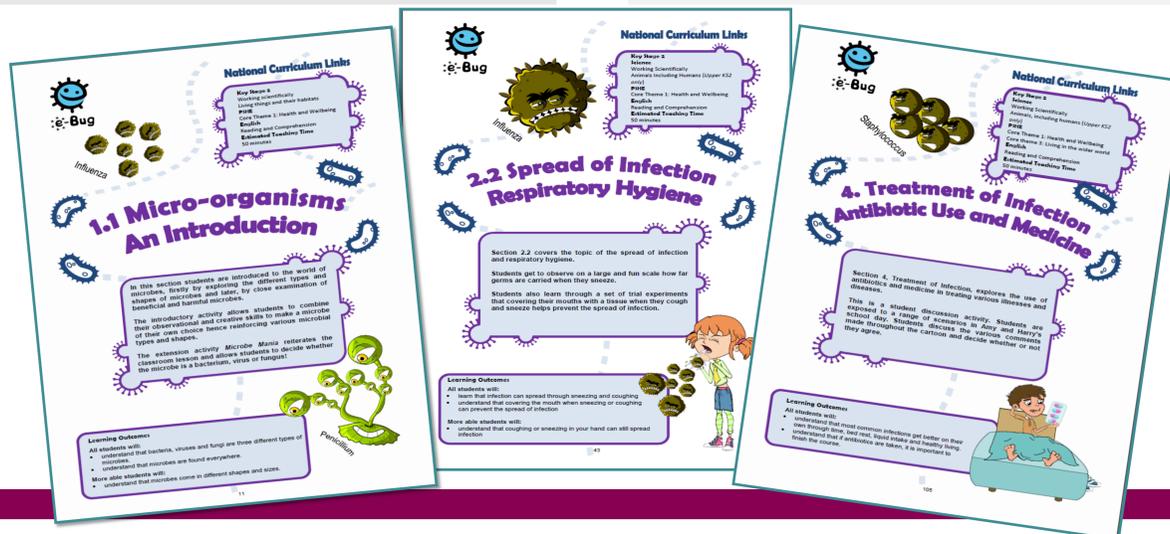
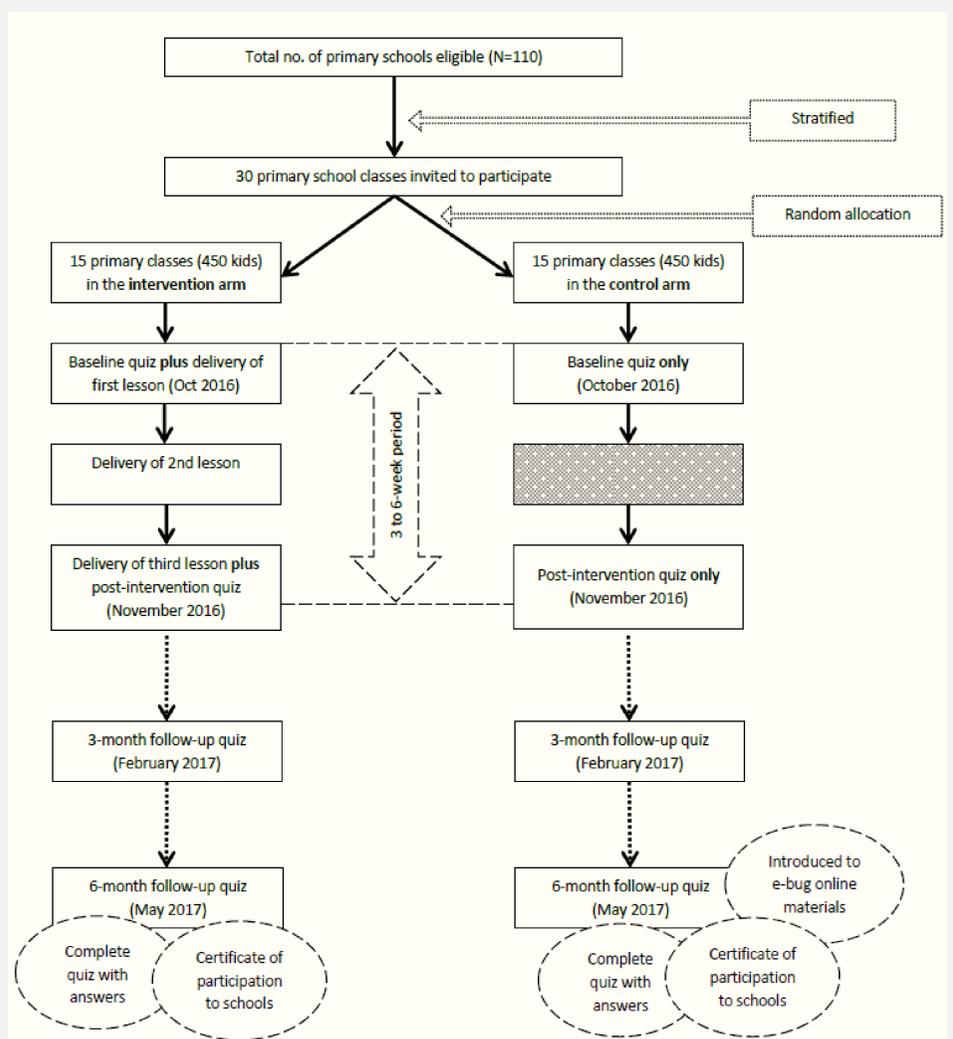
1. SECTION 1 – An introduction to the world of microbes
2. SECTION 2 – Respiratory (breathing) tract infections and respiratory hygiene
3. SECTION 3 – Antibiotics and antibiotic resistance

### Results

The mean overall score for the entire quiz was 51%. That for boys was 45% and for girls was 58%. The children fared best in 'Section 2' (mean overall score = 70%) and worst in 'Section 1' (mean overall score = 44%). Girls consistently scored higher than boys in all sections.

Results are sub-optimal and indicate the need for increasing knowledge within these three areas. Introduction of the e-Bug curriculum provides with a great opportunity for this.

### Future plans



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