

From: [Glenn Malcolm](#)
Cc: [Brian Taylor](#)
Subject: EdTech Tuesday #37: Would you try this on your board? (And tell me what's wrong with it)
Date: 08 September 2026 5:32:00 AM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2569-09-07 at 15.55.44.png](#)
[Screenshot 2569-09-07 at 15.48.38.png](#)
[Screenshot 2569-09-07 at 15.48.55.png](#)

EDTECH TUESDAY

ISSUE 37 · CPL BY PATANA · 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

A Classroom Screen Built for Our Boards

A newsletter for teachers, on AI, the internet, and how we can adapt it for our classrooms.

TL;DR

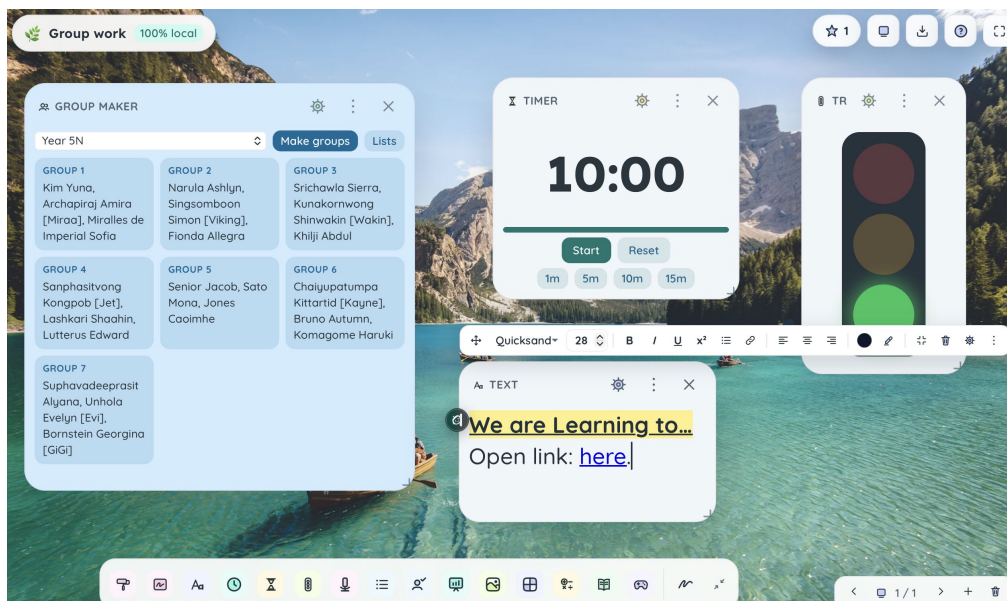
[Sage Stage](#) is one screen for the front of the classroom: a timer, a name picker, a rekenrek, a bar model, a phoneme mat, modelled writing paper - dragged onto the board where you want them, and they stay there all year. Opens in Chrome or Edge, no login, nothing leaves your machine. **Try one widget in one lesson and tell me what was annoying.**

Full widget list at the end.

Dear Colleagues,

A handful of you have been living with Sage Stage for a few weeks now and have been wonderfully blunt about what works and what doesn't - Karen, Mickey, Stephanie and Helen especially. Nearly everything good in it arrived because someone said "that's fiddly" or "it needs to do this instead." It's now in good enough shape that I'd love the rest of you to get your hands on it.

What it is: one screen for the front of the classroom that holds everything you'd normally open five tabs for. A timer, a name picker, a rekenrek, a bar model, a phoneme mat, modelled writing paper - you drag each one onto the board where you want it, and it stays exactly there, every lesson, all year. Nothing ever rearranges itself, because children navigate a board by memory and moving things costs them more than it costs us.



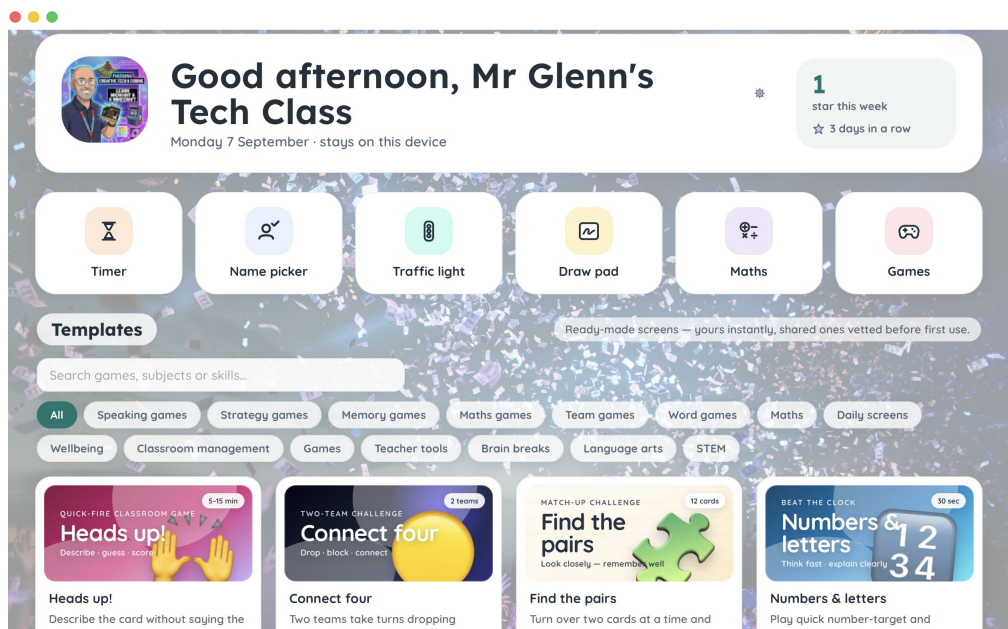
One screen, three widgets: Group maker, Timer and a Text box, each where you left it. The toolbar along the bottom holds the rest of the shelf.

Where to find it: sagestage.app - it opens in Chrome or Edge on your classroom machine. No account, no login, nothing to install. Everything you make stays on that computer; no child's name, class list or piece of work goes anywhere near a server.

[Open Sage Stage on your board →](#)

Three things worth five minutes of your PPA

Templates. Open it and you'll land on your decks - think one deck per class. Hit Templates and there are 40-odd ready-made screens: Daily agenda, Silent work time, Exit ticket, Number bonds to 10, Times tables & arrays, Telling the time, Class shop, Would you rather, Heads up! Pick one, and you've got a working screen before the kettle's boiled. Edit it however you like - it's yours from that moment.



Where you land. Six quick launchers, then Templates - search, or filter by Maths games, Daily screens, Brain breaks and so on.

Your PowerPoint come with you. On the decks page there's Import PowerPoint. Point it at a .pptx and every slide becomes a screen - either as a picture of the slide, or broken into editable text and image boxes you can then drop widgets on top of. Nothing is uploaded; the file is unzipped on your own machine. PDFs and Word documents work too: drop a Document widget on the board for a PDF, image or text file, and the Genre toolkit will read a WAGOLL straight out of a .docx or .pdf and put it on the board to mark up together. Even your class list can come in from a spreadsheet.

Draw over anything. The squiggle at the end of the toolbar is the annotation layer - a pen, a see-through marker for highlighting, shapes and arrows, and a proper ruler, protractor and set square you can drag a line along. It floats over whatever is underneath, so you can annotate a photo, a PowerPoint slide, a bar model or a child's work under the visualiser. Clearing the ink never touches the widgets. If you'd rather have a page to write on, the Draw pad gives you 13 papers: ruled, squared, handwriting guides, hundred square, number line, place value, fraction bars, coordinate plane, isometric, even music staves.

Where to start, by phase

There are 55 widgets, which is far too many to meet at once. Here's the handful I'd actually reach for:

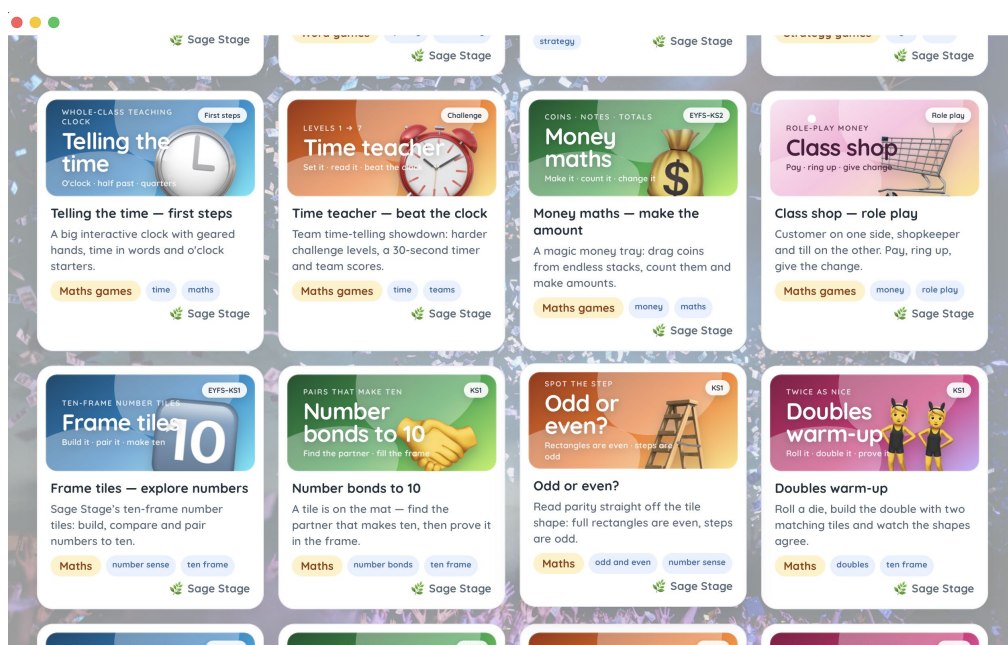
- | | |
|-------------|--|
| EYFS | Frame tiles (ten-frames), Rekenrek, Counters, Visual timer, Work mode symbols, Name picker, Phoneme tiles, Draw pad on the handwriting guide |
| KS1 | Frame tiles, Base 10, Part-whole, Number line, Teaching clock, Money tray, Class shop, Phoneme tiles, Word builder, Sentence builder, Modelled writing |

- KS2** Place value counters, Bar model, Number line, Teaching clock, Modelled writing, Genre toolkit, Story map, Word bank, Word class sorter, Word search, Draw pad + geometry tools
- KS3** Bar model, Number line, Place value counters (decimals), Draw pad on the coordinate plane or isometric grid, geometry tools, Group maker, Poll, Timer, Genre toolkit, Word search, Document and Video

Every phase: Timer, Visual timer, Name picker, Group maker, Traffic light, Agenda, Poll, Scoreboard.

It's built to sit alongside what we already teach

White Rose Maths. The maths shelf is deliberately the WRM manipulative list: the cherry part-whole diagram, bar models for comparing and sharing, Base 10 with a real exchange animation, place value charts using WRM's own column conventions all the way to millions and thousandths, the rekenrek, ten frames, and a number line you can drag jump arcs onto and then read back as a number sentence. If it's in the small-steps slide, it's probably on the shelf.



The maths templates, each tagged with a phase. Frame tiles and Number bonds to 10 are the two I'd open first in KS1.

Big Write and modelled writing. Modelled writing gives you proper paper with school inks, saved pages, and yesterday's cold write sitting beside today's hot write. The Genre toolkit holds a genre's checklist, word bank and model text, revealed a feature at a time across a unit. Story map plans a story in beats, with an emotion graph and boxing-up.

Sentence writing. Sentence builder builds sentences from parts so you can model the grammar move of the day - fix the broken one, then build one properly. The Word class sorter sorts words

into nouns, verbs and adjectives against the year's lists.

Phonics. Phoneme tiles and sound mats build words sound by sound - build "rain", swap the grapheme, read it again. The labels are editable, so it can speak whichever SSP programme we're running rather than fighting it.

Spelling. Word builder takes this week's list and turns it into a build-it-together game; Word search generates a real puzzle from your own words; Memory pairs and the letters round of Numbers & letters do the same job with a different feel.

And you can print it for the wall

The writing and phonics tools - modelled writing, the genre toolkit, story map and phoneme sound mats - have Print... in their ⋮ menu. That gives you one A4 sheet, or the same thing blown up across several sheets into a proper wall poster, with cutting guides in the margin and a choice of taping or gluing the seams. The sentence you built together this morning can be on the wall by lunchtime, or in the window for parents at pick-up. It'll also save straight to PDF if you'd rather send it to the office printer.

WHAT I'D LOVE FROM YOU

Try one widget in one lesson

Genuinely anything. Try one widget in one lesson and tell me it was annoying. Tell me the thing you do every day that it can't do yet. Tell me a template you'd want for your year group. Nothing is too small - the last round of changes came from someone saying a button was in the wrong place, and they were right.

- 1 Reply to this email with anything at all, or grab me in the corridor.
- 2 A drop-in session - I'll be in [room] on [day] after school, board on, taking requests. Come for ten minutes or stay for an hour.
- 3 A step-by-step guide to all of the above: [Sage Stage on the Board](#).
Every widget explained, one page: sagestage.co.uk

Thanks for reading this far - and thanks especially to those of you already using it. It's much better for it.

Glenn Malcolm

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THE WHOLE SHELF, IF YOU'RE CURIOUS

All 55 widgets, by shelf. You will not need most of them; the point is that the one you do need is there.

Board tools - Background, Spotlight, Screen cover, Class lists

Essentials - Draw pad, Text, Clock, Timer, Visual timer, Stopwatch, Countdown, Calendar, Agenda, Traffic light, Work mode, Noise meter, Name picker, Group maker, Dice, Poll, Scoreboard, Prompt cards, Word builder, Image, Video, Webcam, Embed, Document, QR code, Link, Sticker

Maths - Teaching clock, Money tray, Class shop, Frame tiles, Counters, Base 10, Place value counters, Rekenrek, Number line, Part-whole, Bar model

English - Phoneme tiles, Word class sorter, Word bank, Sentence builder, Modelled writing, Genre toolkit, Story map

Games - Memory pairs, Word search, Tic tac toe, Connect four, Numbers & letters, Mini strategy board

LINKS

sagestage.app - the board itself (Chrome or Edge)

sagestage.co.uk - every widget explained

CPL BY PATANA

Edtech Tuesday goes out weekly in term time to teaching staff.