



# Ellie and Nanny Cooper's new invention



Ellie's mother, Susan, was waiting at the school gate with Vishnu's mother.

Ellie and Vishnu had been to craft club which they always went to on Wednesdays, after school. Ellie was making a soft toy to be a new friend for her favourite teddy, Mags. Vishnu was making a cushion cover he had designed himself.

On the walk home, Ellie told her mum and Rusty the dog, all about her day.

Ellie started by telling her mum what she had learnt about spreadsheets in computing, before also telling her mother about her history lesson on Ancient Egypt, and her English lesson on narrative writing.

“And in science, Mr Tyler demonstrated how electricity was discovered and then we learnt about some amazing scientists, although I cannot remember all their names” finished Ellie.

“Gosh you learnt a lot. What made these scientists so amazing?” Susan asked.





“It was their discoveries like electricity and inventions like the internet, which changed people’s lives” replied Ellie. “I worked with James, Priya and Fabian to search on the internet for discoveries and inventions that have changed the way we live. Just imagine if electricity or antibiotics had not been discovered. Or if telephones or cars had not been invented” said Ellie. Susan agreed.


“You know Nanny Cooper has invented things, don’t you?” asked Susan.

Ellie had forgotten her maternal grandmother, Nanny Cooper, was an inventor, so it was good to be reminded.

“What has Nanny Cooper invented?” asked Ellie.

“I’ll let you ask her yourself at the weekend because you have a sleepover with Poppa and Nanny Cooper this weekend, remember?” replied Susan.

“Oh yes! I can’t wait!” exclaimed Ellie.



Today was Wednesday, so it was not long to wait for the weekend. Ellie enjoyed sleepovers with her grandparents as it often meant exploring the garden, playing on the swing, and then ice cream or a hot chocolate afterwards, depending on the weather. Mags enjoyed all the activities too, but probably most of all, she enjoyed the hot chocolate!

It was at the breakfast table on Saturday morning when Ellie remembered to ask Nanny Cooper about being an inventor. Mags was sat on the table cuddling a glass of milk and was equally interested in hearing about Nanny Cooper's inventions.



# Ideal Home Exhibition



"Oh yes that's right" said Nanny Cooper, "I first invented a kitchen gadget about forty years ago. It was exhibited at the Ideal Home Exhibition." Nanny Cooper was proud of her invention.

"Really!" Ellie was impressed. Then, thinking back to what she had learnt in school earlier in the week, Ellie asked: "Has your kitchen gadget changed people's lives?"

"I should think over the years that particular invention has helped a lot of people save a lot of time in the kitchen" replied Nanny Cooper. "But do you want to hear about my latest invention?" continued Nanny Cooper "a little tool to help older people stay safe when gardening."

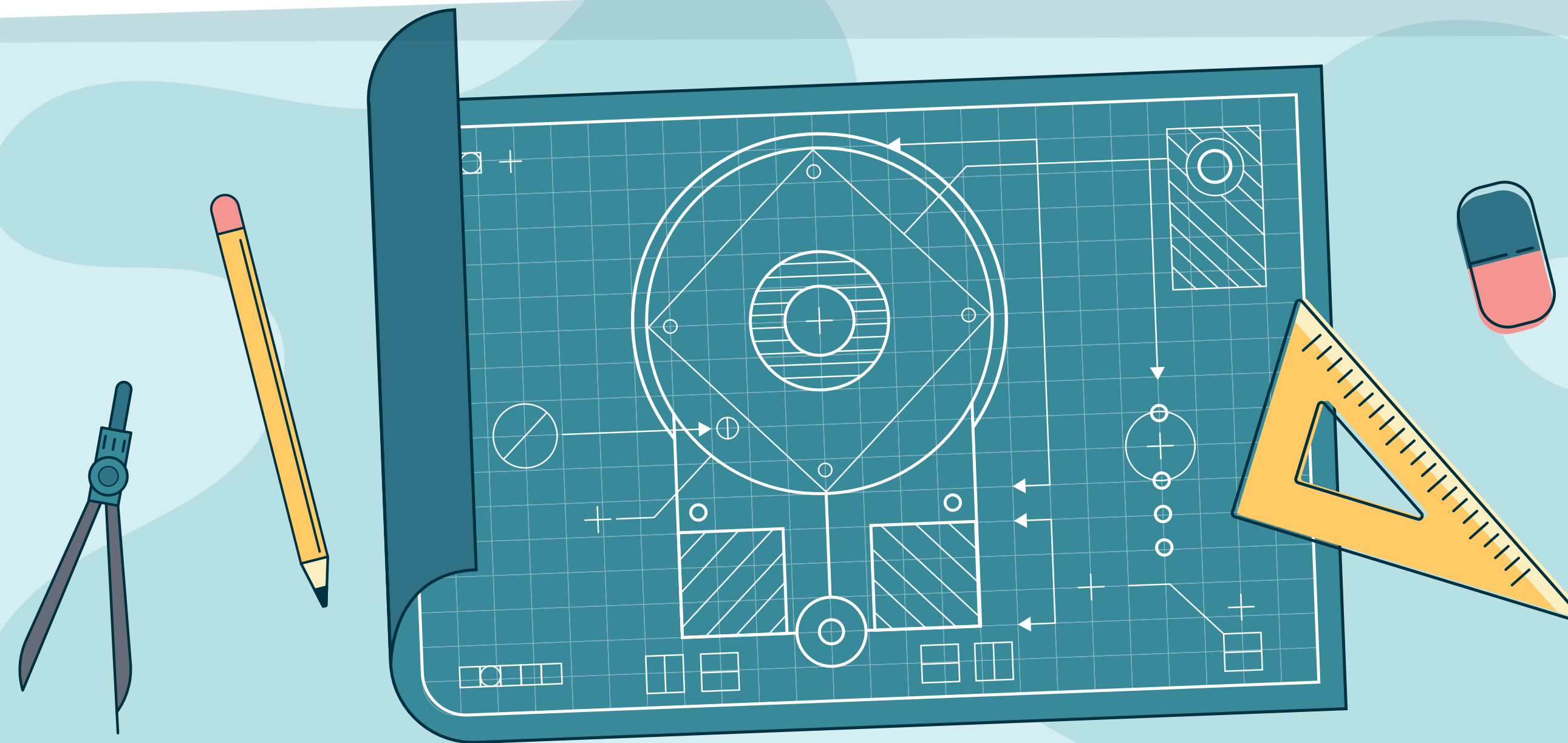
Ellie was not entirely surprised as she knew how much Nanny Cooper enjoyed gardening.


“That sounds brilliant Nanny, can people buy it in the shops?” asked Ellie.

“Well not yet dear. There are a few things I need to do first before it can be bought in a shop,” replied Nanny Cooper.

Ellie and Mags were disappointed so asked Nanny Cooper: “Why?”

“Well because I have now created my invention, it has become what’s called intellectual property” said Nanny Cooper.





Ellie and Mags looked at each other confused, although as they were also their usual inquisitive selves, they decided to ask some more questions to get a better understanding.

Nanny Cooper was more than happy to explain. “As I don’t want someone to copy my invention without my permission, or for that person to put their name on my invention and sell it as their own idea, I need to apply for a patent that will protect my invention. Have you heard of Alexander Graham Bell?” asked Nanny Cooper.

Ellie shook her head and so did Mags!





“In the middle to late nineteenth century, Alexander Graham Bell was experimenting with sound and invented the telephone. Other inventors at the time had been experimenting too, but it was Bell who was first to get a patent for his invention. The patent prevented other inventors from copying Bell’s invention for a period of time.” explained Nanny Cooper.



“So with a patent, you’ll be protecting Nanny Cooper’s Garden Gadget?” asked Ellie with glee.

“Yes dear, that’s right. Patents are an important form of intellectual property. There are other forms of intellectual property too” replied Nanny Cooper.

Ellie was finding the conversation fascinating so wanted to know more about intellectual property, or IP, as it is often called.

Certificate of  
Grant of Patent

Nanny Cooper, inventor  
of **Nanny Cooper’s  
Garden Gadget**



“Well I know you’ve used your imagination to create lots of things Ellie, and probably Mags has too” said Nanny Cooper with a smile.

“I remember you showing me a cartoon strip you created online based on all your own ideas.”

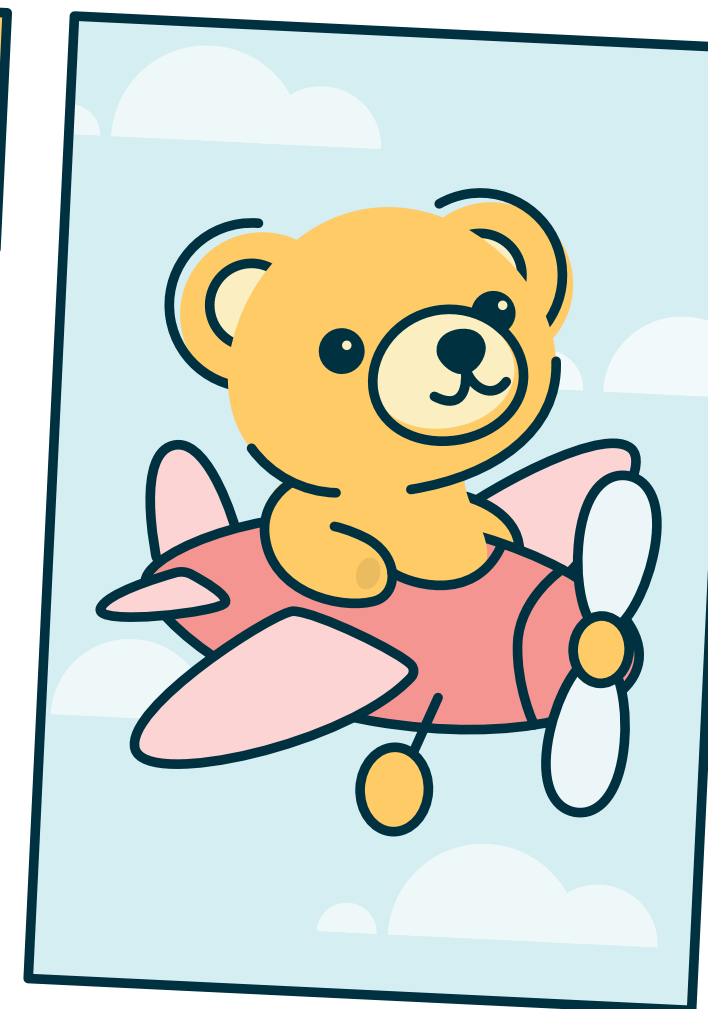
“That’s right” said Ellie, “I called it **‘The Adventures of Mags the exploring teddy bear’**.”

Mags turned to Ellie with a surprised look on her face – Mags knew she had lots of adventures with Ellie but did not know those adventures had

been made into a cartoon strip. Mags wondered if this meant she was going to become famous!

“Your cartoon strip is your intellectual property” continued Nanny Cooper. “I’m sure you would have put your name on it to show it was yours, but you also have copyright to protect your drawings and the written part of the cartoon. The copyright would stop other people copying it without your permission.”

### The Adventures of Mags the exploring teddy bear



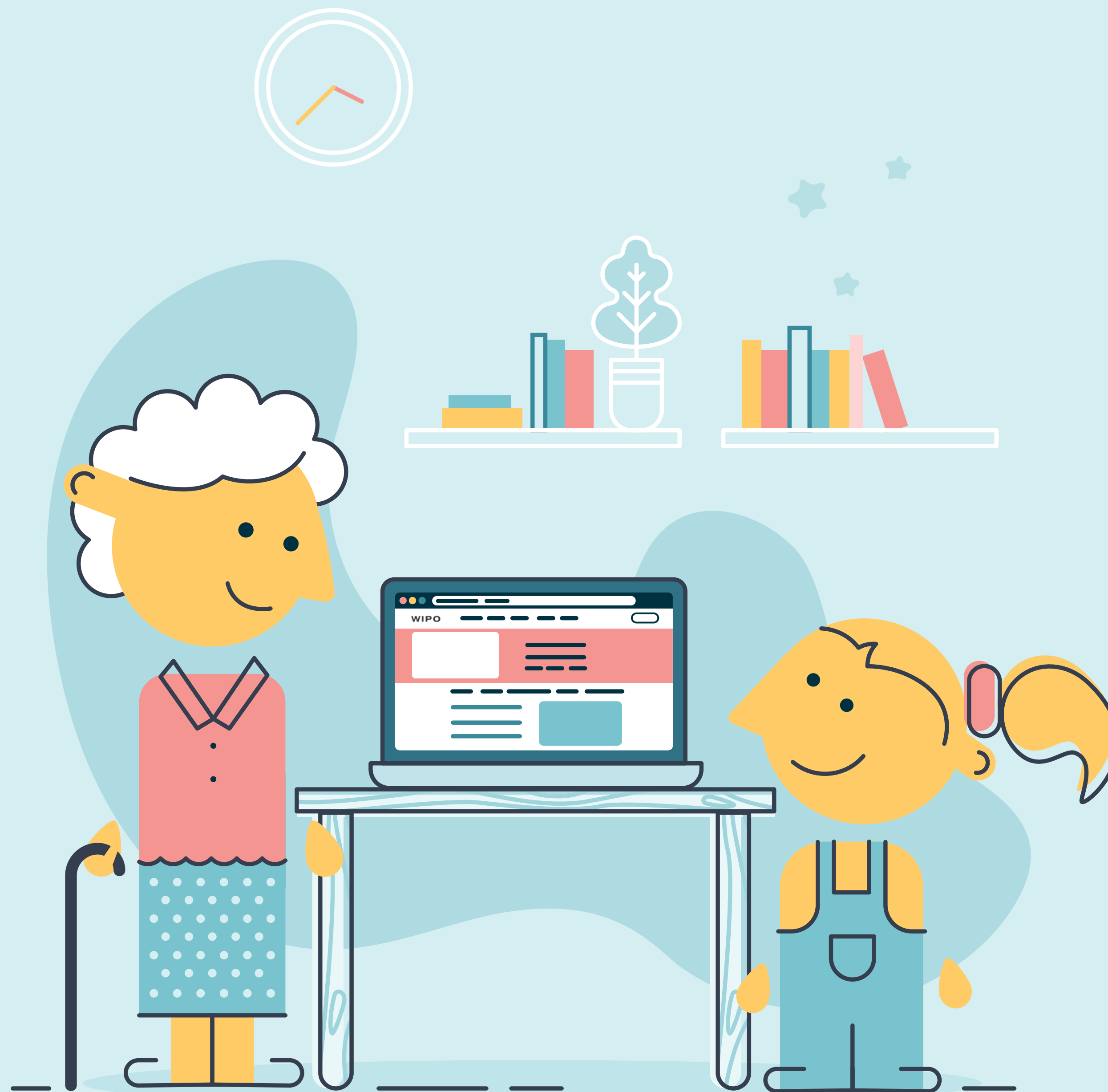



Ellie took a moment or two to consider what Nanny Cooper had just told her.

“You could even get what’s called a trademark to protect the name ‘Mags’, and you could prevent others from making teddy bears officially called ‘Mags’” suggested Nanny Cooper, who went on to explain how trademarks are part of intellectual property.

While Mags continued to think about whether she might become famous, Ellie asked: “Is there anything else I should know about intellectual property do you think Nanny Cooper?”

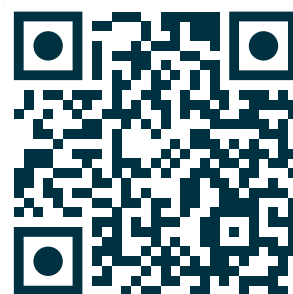
Nanny Cooper spoke a bit more about intellectual property as well as showing Ellie and Mags information online from the UK Intellectual Property Office and the World Intellectual Property Organization.



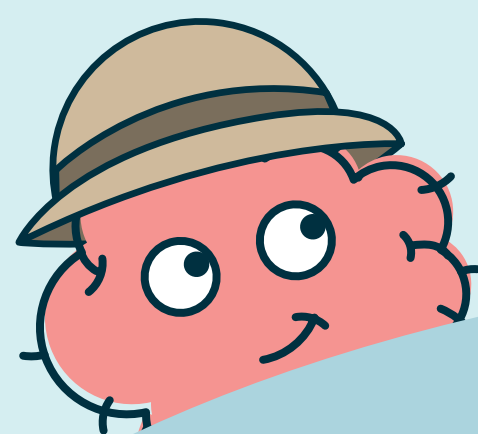
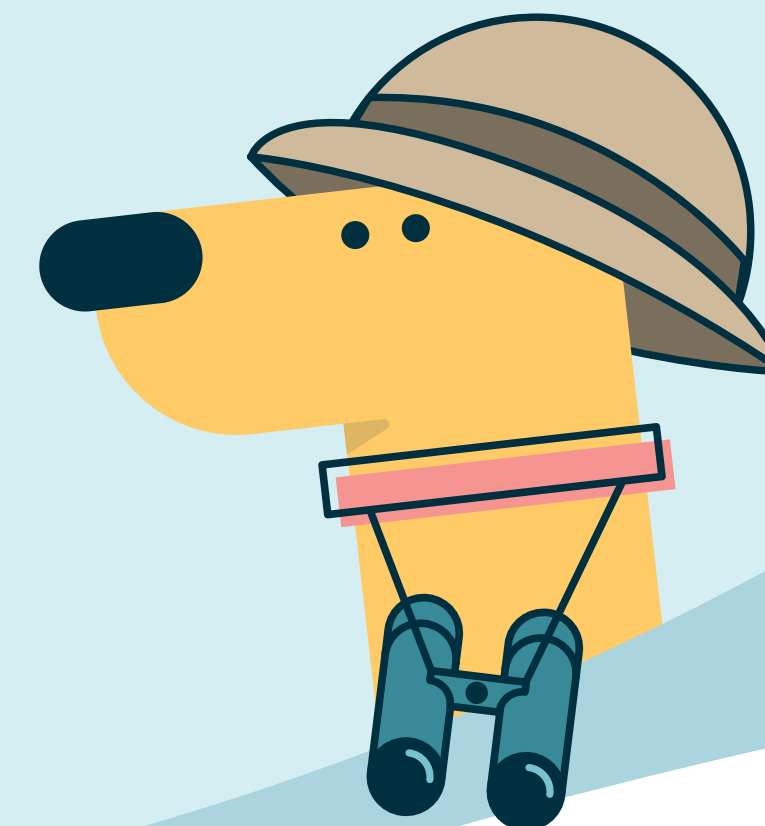
An illustration of three cartoon characters in a jungle setting. A large yellow character with a brown hat and a backpack stands in the center. To its left are two smaller characters, a yellow bear-like figure and a pink, cloud-like figure, both wearing brown hats. They are surrounded by large green leaves, some with white outlines, and a large, faint, stylized letter 'E' in the background. A red paperclip is pinned to the top of the text box on the right.

Ellie thought about the soft toy she was making in her school craft club and realised she had not yet given it a name – Ellie wondered if ‘Yewby’ was a good unique name. Ellie also wondered if she should trademark the name.

The following week, when Ellie was writing more of her cartoon strips in lunchtime story club, she decided Yewby should join her and Mags in their latest adventure: Ellie, Mags and Yewby explore the jungle – though not before she had told her teacher what she needed to do to stop people copying her cartoons and the characters in them!



For more stories featuring Ellie,  
her family, friends and teddies,  
as well as accompanying  
teaching resources, visit:  
[www.abpischools.org.uk](http://www.abpischools.org.uk)



Designed by tothepoint

Story by Thomas Andrews  
Scientist and educationalist

In association with the World  
Intellectual Property Organization

