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Boughton-under-Blean and Dunkirk Primary School

C O M P U T I N G

Newsletter

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Apps @ School

With all of the iPads we use at school, it is important to maintain them and download any apps that we feel will benefit the children. We have added a computing folder to the iPads which include the apps Scratch, Lightbot and Lightbot 4+. We have lots more to benefit individual needs as well as subject ones. Guided Reading lessons benefit from Big Cat reading books. They are free apps with an interactive display. We like these apps because they are read to you in English so the children recognise words better. A full app list will be available on our computing part of the website soon. Along with children's reviews on why they enjoy the app.

Blogs

We are looking to really develop blogs this year so every teacher has access to a class blog which they should be updating weekly. It is a great and proven way of communicating with their class, along with their newsletters. Any comments made by children on the blogs are always greatly appreciated by all.

The current year 6's took part in e-safety ambassador training last year. They are now "fully qualified" e-safety ambassadors for the school. Their role is to promote e-safety around the school by going into classrooms and giving talks, but also to run an assembly termly to highlight how to stay safe on the internet. They have shown great enthusiasm towards this even at this early stage, so well done!!

New year, new newsletter and a new computing curriculum.

This is a new newsletter letting everyone know about how we use computers and iPads around the school. It will also provide you with some app info about ones we use at school. An insight to db Primary and our new school program, Purple Mash is also included in this newsletter.

Steph Hammond & Doug Holliday

The Computer Curriculum 2014

The New Computing Curriculum develops both skills and knowledge. Children are taught computer science. This includes the craft of coding, from KS1 onwards – floor and screen turtles at KS1 to Scratch at KS2. Children learn about programming, data, algorithms and networks. This enables children to develop an understanding of the principles of computer science. They develop computational thinking. There's also a focus on problem solving: using logic and ideas about systems, patterns (and pattern languages), abstraction and decomposition.

The new curriculum puts a clearer emphasis on three areas of learning:

Computer science - how computers work and how to write algorithms and solve problems to eventually create a computer program.

Information technology - how data is represented and managed on computers.

Digital literacy - how to understand digital information and interact with it safely and appropriately.

The aim of the new curriculum is to build an understanding of how computers work and how they can be used in pupils' lives - both in their future employment and in enabling them to be good 21st Century global citizens.

At Boughton Under Blean children are taught computing. Pupils also have the opportunity to use ICT within the class across a range of subjects. Children have access to both laptops and iPads.

Pupils are also taught about how to keep themselves safe online



Purple Mash is a new program to us at Boughton, but already is a huge hit with the children. Purple Mash is the new creative online space from 2Simple. Purple Mash hosts an exciting mash-up of curriculum focused activities, creative tools, programs and games to support and inspire creative learning every day. From poems to newspapers, masks and 3D models, animations and textured paintings, Purple Mash can support your creative curriculum throughout the year. As Purple Mash is online, children can continue their learning anywhere and anytime. Each user receives an individual log in to save and retrieve their work.



DB Primary is a great way for children to keep up to date with the goings on in their class through the class blog page. This page is accessible through our website and class pages. If any child does not know their log in details then do not hesitate to contact Doug via email or at school and he will be happy to supply them with their details.

One final note - Due to a change introduced by Apple in the update, any parents that upgrade to iOS 8 will need to do one of the following:

For parents linked to one student only: After upgrading to iOS 8, launch the School Gateway App and log back in to continue receiving messages.

For parents linked to more than one student: After upgrading to iOS 8, delete and reinstall the School Gateway App from the App Store. Once installed, log back in to continue to receive messages.