



Helmshore Primary  
Every Moment Matters



### Helmshore Computing News

We are really pleased to be able to tell you all about our Computing lessons and activities during the last half term.

We continue to use Purple Mash to support our learning, both at home and in school, and the children continue to use it with a growing amount of confidence.

Below you will find information about what each year group have done and we've even got some news of our computing developments.



### EYFS

Our EYFS children have loved their introduction to computing skills via Purple Mash. They are so enthusiastic about demonstrating activities and completing their initial 2Do tasks. They are now using a range of skills to explore Mini Mash and are already becoming proficient in using the tools in 2Paint to create their own pictures. We have been talking about uses of technology and beginning to develop our computing vocabulary and we have also introduced some early ideas about eSafety.

The children have also enjoyed learning how to access and use Phonics Bug eBooks both at home and at school.



Some of our comments:

*"I love doing my Purple Mash activities!" Daniel*

*"I like the jigsaws on Mini Mash - I can do it by myself." Eva*

*"We can create things and colour them in - you tap on the pens on your laptop." Tobias*

*"We can do handwriting and I can draw the number 5 on Purple Mash." Luke*

*"I read some books on Phonics Bug." Alastair*

*"I think Purple Mash is really good." Margot*

## Year 1

During the first half of the Autumn term, we enjoyed creating simple algorithms and programming our friends to complete simple instructions using positional/directional language. We enjoyed debugging our instructions and using the bee bots to navigate simple maps. We have used iPads to explore Purple Mash. We have completed spelling quizzes on Purple Mash, and we will be beginning to share books on Serial Mash.



## Year 2

In Year 2, we looked at the 'iSafe' unit of iCompute. The children looked at how to stay safe online when using electronic devices. We considered what we should do if we see something that we are unsure about and who we could talk to. The children discussed keeping our personal information private and the importance of not sharing passwords and log in details with strangers. We also looked at taking photographs and how we should not share them with others unless we have their permission.



### Year 3

Year 3 have been learning how to stay safe on-line with the SMART Crew. We have been using the excellent teaching and learning resources available on the 'Think U Know' website

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>.



S - Stay Safe

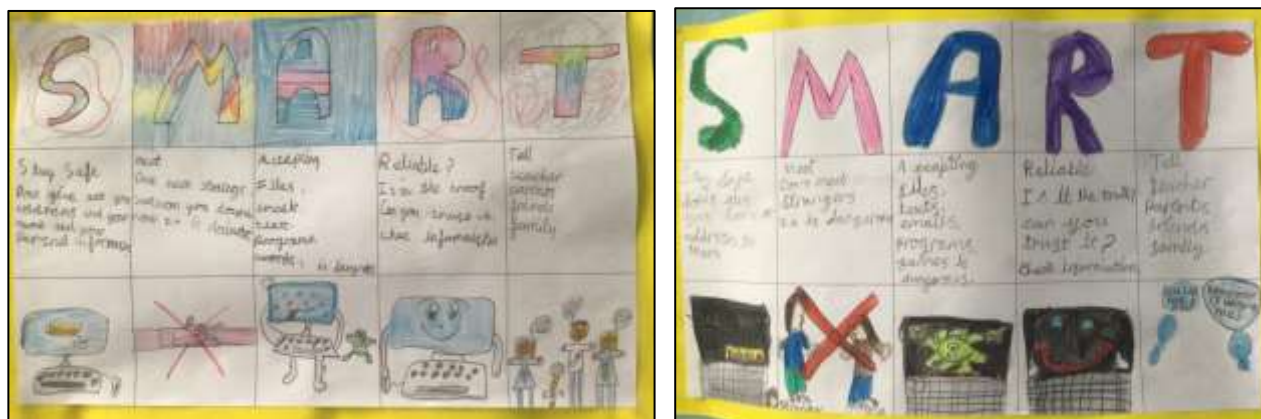
M - Don't Meet Up

A - Accepting Files

R - Reliable

T - Tell Someone

We made posters and put them up in the classroom to remind us to stay safe.



If you would like to learn more or need support keeping your child safe online - visit

<https://thinkuknow.co.uk/parents>

### Year 4

In Year 4, we have been looking at our iSafe Unit. We looked at how to keep ourselves safe online and learning what to do if we are concerned. We looked at the importance of having safe passwords, not sharing our personal information and ways to communicate safely with others. We also looked at how specific we needed to be when searching in order to find what we were looking at. Year 4 carried out a specific task to find an item. They soon realised how specific they needed to be and had a lot of fun along the way.



## **Year 5**

Year 5 have been working on the iCompute unit 'iProgram' - looking at the visual programming language 'Scratch'. Using the context of games development, the children have explored moving a sprite and making it react when coming into contact with something else. The children have enjoyed making their own 'Bubbles' program; making the bubbles pop, change direction and designing their own stage for their bubbles to move around.



## **Year 6**

During the earlier part of the Autumn term, Year 6 focused on iSafe.

We discussed the importance of never sharing passwords and how to create passwords which are hard to guess, yet easy to remember. We have looked at what online bullying is and how to respond and report abuse. We have focused on making good decisions in deciding what information to communicate and whether to communicate it at all.



## Computing Developments

### USB Visualiser / Document Camera

We are currently trialling two different makes of USB Visualiser/Document Camera in the classroom. The camera allows pupils to see documents/books on the large interactive screens which are in every classroom. The USB camera is simple and quick to use, if the trial proves positive, we may invest in more devices.



### The School Website

The school website is currently under review/redesign. We are improving the layout to make it easier to find information and ensure that we keep up with developments in online content management.

### Upgraded Portable Capability

During the period of COVID lockdown, we have invested in a new Wi-Fi system capable of supporting many portable devices in all areas across the school. This investment has enabled us to move to a portable Computer Suite system where pupils can use laptops at their desks when needed.



### eSafety Policy Review

eSafety is a fundamental priority in Computing and we are constantly striving to ensure that our pupils enjoy a safe experience online. To help us to maintain our understanding of the ever-evolving eSafety issues we have adopted the 360°Safe self-review process, along with support from our Local Authority, UK Safer Internet Centre, South West Grid for Learning.

Helpful places to get advice about safety for your family:

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Online Safety for Children - Tips & Guides | NSPCC](#)

[Online Safety Leaflets & resources - Internet Matters](#)

We have more links on our school website too:

[Online Safety – Helmsford Primary School](#)