Mash Club - Coding and Blogging - Session 2

1 Session 2

Blogging knowledge to Acquire:

- What a blog is.
- How to blog and comment.

Computing Skills to Master:

- How to add a blog post to showcase your work and games.
- How to evaluate and comment in a constructive way on others' games.
- How to respond positively to constructive comments.
- Improving your game.

Game to Develop: Escape the Dragon

Session 2

In this session, you will be learning about blogs, writing your own blog post to share your game and commenting on others' games.

Note for group leaders:

It would be great for the first part of this session to be a discussion so that children can share their ideas about what a blog is. Follow the prompts below with your group and show them the blog that you have set up for them to add their posts.

1. Ask the children whether they know what a blog is or if they can guess? Do they follow any blogs? Perhaps they follow a vlog (video blog); this is like a blog but is a series of short movies rather than written posts.
2. Some children may know about blogs and may know some successful examples of these.
3. Ask the children if they understand the difference between a blog page, a blog post and a blog comment.
4. Explain that they are going to be blogging about their experiences at Mash Club and sharing this with others in the school community.
5. Talk about safety aspects and the reason why all comments will be moderated by the leader of the group to protect the children.
6. Explain that for today's club the approvals process will be off so that children will be able to blog and comment freely but this will be changed after the club for the children's protection.

7. Tell the children the name of the Mash Club blog that you created, then explain that today's instructions will enable them to add a blog post linked to the game that they made last session and to comment on others' games. Stress the need to be polite and positive in their help and the fact that all comments can be seen by yourself.

1. Let's get started! Login to Purple Mash and click on the Sharing tab.

2. Find the blog and read the first post by clicking on it to open it, this should be from your group leader welcoming everyone to the blog.

3. Add a comment to this; remember to be polite. You could write about what are you looking forward to doing in Mash Club? Is there anything in particular that you would like to learn how to do? Are there other Purple Mash tools that you would like to use in Mash Club? Type in the comment box at the bottom and then click Post.

4. Next you are going to add your own post to the blog. Click on the button at the top right of the screen.

5. Give your blog post a title; it is going to be about your Mash Club and coding experience so far so think of something suitable.

6. Leave the summary until the end for now. Click in the main writing area called **Content** and write something about yourself and computing. Was last session your first coding experience? Did you find the instructions easy to follow? Did you enjoy the session?

7. Use the text tools to format your text, have a little experiment to find out what the buttons do and get things looking how you like them.

8. Now you are going to attach a link to the game that you made last session. When people open the blog post, they will be able to play the game. Click on the work picker button . This will open the following screen showing the things that are in your work folder.

9. Your game will have a code monkey symbol next to the name and when you click on the name, you will get a mini preview of your game!

10. Click the

button.

11. Now go back to the summary and write a couple of sentences about your post, then click

12. Now look to see if anyone else has posted yet. Play their games from the blog and add a nice comment, you could make a helpful suggestion or tell them something that you especially liked.

13. Respond to other people's comments as they come in on the blog. If they offer helpful suggestions about improving your game, then try and make the improvements and check back with them.

Are you interested in starting your own blog about a subject that you are interested; maybe a hobby or a blog about school lunches or the area that you live in? You can add a personal blog that will be private for you so others will not read or comment on your posts. At a later time, your teacher could convert it to a public blog but for now start it off personal to get used to doing some blogging.

a) Open 2Blog from the Tools section.

b) Click on the green plus sign to add a new blog.

c) When you click on Add Blog, you have the option to name your blog, write a description for your blog, select an icon and select a background cover.

d) Click Save. Now you will be able to click on the

button to see your blog. It will open in a new tab so you can just close the tab if you want to make changes.

e) Your blog will now appear in the Sharing tab. From here you can look at it and add blog posts

f) Click on your blog and then on the
button in the top right. Write in the title, summary and the content of the post. Remember you can attach work as well.

g) Click save and then you have made a post on your personal blog!