

Blogging and Online Publishing

This year our class will be working on a class blog which allows us to extend and share our learning outside the classroom via the internet. A blog is like an online newsletter where we can publish a variety of content including written work, discussions, photos and videos. This has proved very popular with both students and parents in the past. For an example of a blog, you can see the work of 34D in 2010 (<http://34d2010.globalstudent.org.au>).

A blog serves two purposes. The first is as a **communication tool** between the classroom and the home. A blog allows us to regularly post content including what we have been learning in class, photos of events and activities, games, links and resources. You may also find notices and homework that is sent home online. We encourage you to check this regularly to keep up to date with what we are doing.

Secondly, a blog is a **learning tool** for the students. Students can use a blog to **create, communicate, collaborate** and **connect**. They can write stories and publish them online. They can work with students and contribute to tasks from home. They can reflect on their learning to help build more knowledge. They can connect and collaborate with students in other classes, schools and even other countries!

Students are very motivated to use this fun and exciting tool and in the process learn and extend skills in literacy, maths, ICT and problem solving. And because it is online, students can share their work with families and relatives at home, in other suburbs or even overseas! Your child will be able to show you how to access their work.

Content that is posted on a blog can be commented on, allowing students to discuss and answer questions and comment on their own and others work. This also provides you with the opportunity to become involved, by posting comments to the site about things that we have been doing and joining in discussions. Students love the chance to see and respond to feedback on what they have worked on. In the past students have been excited to see that relatives from around the world have seen what they had been doing and commented on it.

By using a blog students are taught about online responsibility, appropriate behaviour and the importance of maintaining anonymity and privacy online. This moderated environment provides a perfect opportunity for students to learn and experience how to work safely online, and is important as students begin to be exposed to other online technologies at home such as instant messaging (ie MSN, Skype) and social networks. Our blogs at Berwick Fields are hosted by edublogs and are safe and secure for students to use. All posts and comments are moderated before they appear online so that no inappropriate content is available on the site or to the students.

As blogging involves publishing content through a new medium (online) could you please sign and return the permission form below by the end of the week to allow your child to be involved. Online, students will only ever identified by their first name, maintaining their privacy. Students love the chance to work online and publish their work as well as to post photos and videos showing what they have been doing.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We can't wait to continue working with this technology!

Regards,

Berwick Fields ICT Team

Online Publishing Permission Form

I give permission for my child, _____ of grade _____ to participate in online blogging and publishing at Berwick Fields.

I give permission for my student's work, comments, photos and videos to be published and shared through Berwick Fields created blogs and websites, identified only on a first name basis.

Signed: _____

Date: _____