

Unit 6.4 - Blogging



Year Group: 6
Number of
Lessons: 5



From **2**simple



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Introduction

This unit of work uses the Purple Mash tool 2Blog and is designed to help children learn the basic principles of creating and maintaining a blog in a controlled and safe environment.

Using 2Blog, this unit will give children a basic understanding of how to plan, create and present their own blog. For more information about managing 2Blog, see the [User Guide](#) in the Teacher section of Purple Mash.

For these sessions, the children will need to have their own individual logins to Purple Mash.

If you are currently using a single login per class or group and would like to set up individual logins yourself, then please see our guide to doing so at [Create and Manage Users](#). Alternatively, please contact support at support@2simple.com or 0208 203 1781.

A blog can be:

- a diary where life events are documented.
- a place to share information about interests and hobbies.
- a place to share knowledge on specific subjects.



Medium-term Plan

Lesson	Aims	Success Criteria
<u>1</u>	To identify the purpose of writing a blog. To identify the features of successful blog writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children understand how a blog can be used as an informative text. Children understand the key features of a blog.
<u>2</u>	To plan the theme and content for a blog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children can work collaboratively to plan a blog.
<u>3</u>	To understand how to write a blog. To consider the effect upon the audience of changing the visual properties of the blog. To understand the importance of regularly updating the content of a blog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children can create a blog with a specific purpose. Children understand that the way in which information is presented has an impact upon the audience. Children understand that blogs need to be updated regularly to maintain the audience's interest and engagement.
<u>4</u>	To understand how to contribute to an existing blog. To understand how and why blog posts are approved by the teacher.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children can post comments and blog posts to an existing class blog. Children understand the approval process that their posts go through and demonstrate an awareness of the issues surrounding inappropriate posts and cyberbullying.
<u>5</u>	To understand the importance of commenting on blogs. To peer-assess blogs against the agreed success criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children can comment on and respond to other blogs. Children can assess the effectiveness and impact of a blog.



Lesson 1

Aims

- To identify the purpose of writing a blog.
- To identify the features of successful blog writing.

Success criteria

- Children understand how a blog can be used as an informative text.
- Children understand the key features of a blog.

Resources

- The teacher needs to create a blog (see Appendix 1).
- Purple Mash 2Write tool.

Activities

Share the learning objectives and success criteria with the children.

Ask the children whether they know what a blog is.

Can children make sensible guesses as to what is meant by a blog? Some children may know about blogs and may know some successful examples of these.

Generate a shared definition of what a blog is and display this for the children to see. An example definition is given below.

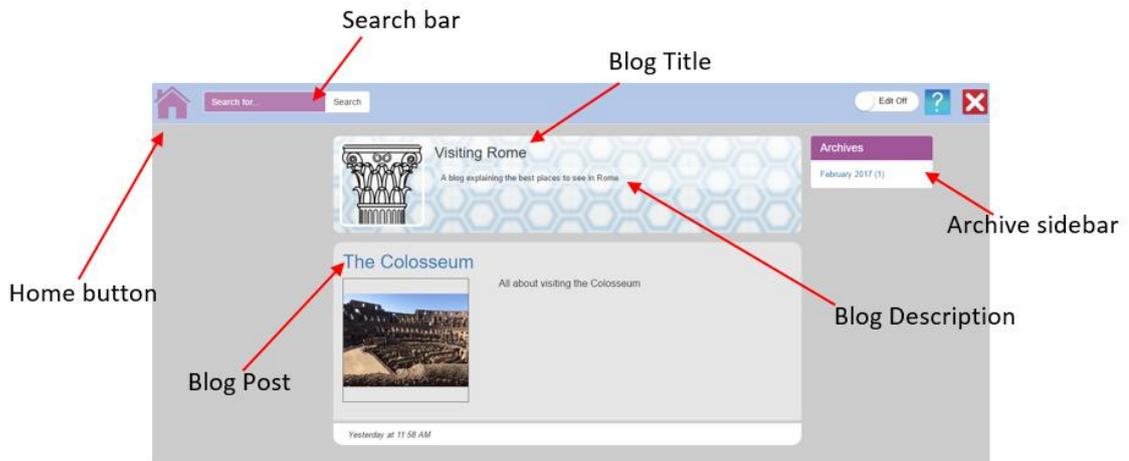
Blogs are regularly updated websites and web pages. Usually written in an informal style, blogs contain 'blog posts' which can be used to document life events, give information about hobbies and interests or share knowledge on specific subjects.

Ask the children if they understand the difference between a blog page and a blog post.

Show the example blog page to the children. Ask the children to describe the key features. See the labelled example below.



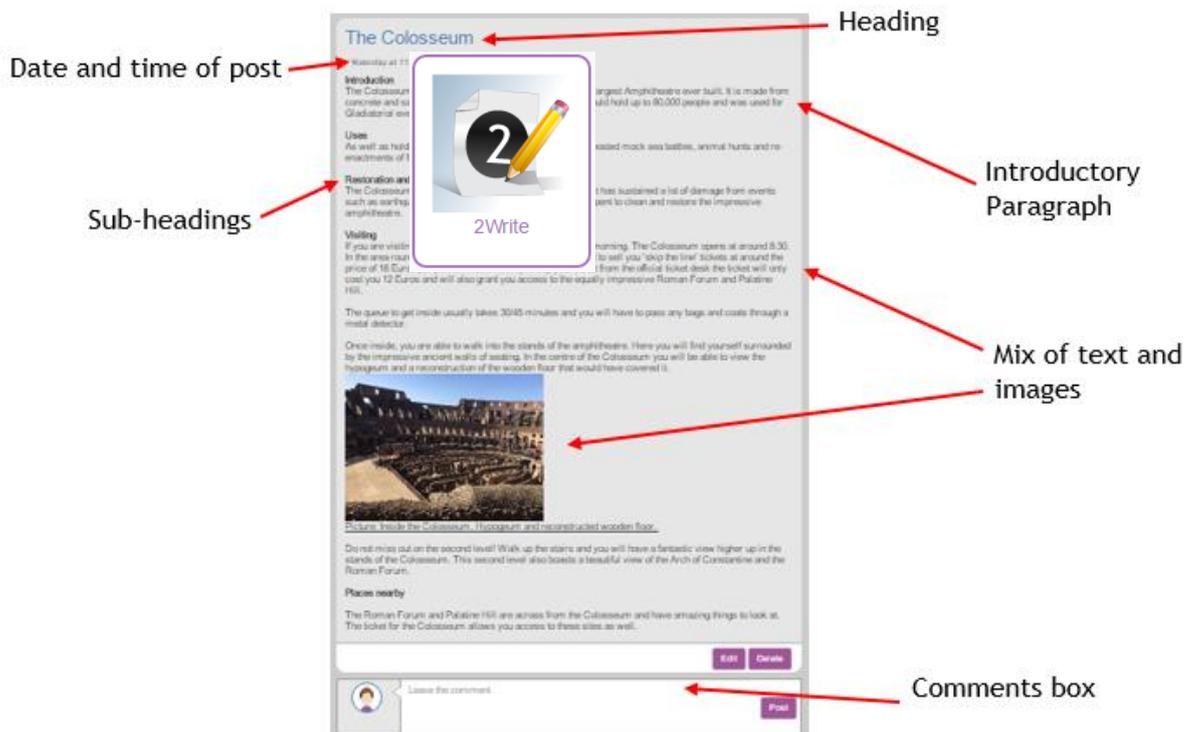
Purple Mash Computing Scheme of Work Unit 6.4 – Blogging – Lesson 1



Demonstrate clicking on a **blog post**.



Show the example of a **blog post** to the children. Ask the children what the key features of the example blog post are. See the labelled example below.

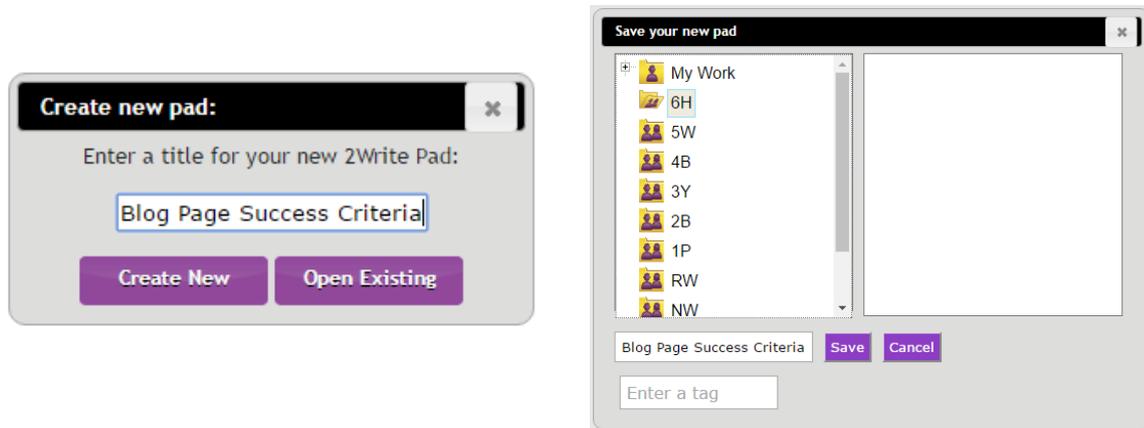


Children should create shared group success criteria for a **blog page** and a **blog post**. In Purple Mash, you can use a tool called 2Write to create collaborative success criteria.



Purple Mash Computing Scheme of Work Unit 6.4 – Blogging – Lesson 1

To set up the collaborative writing page in 2Write, click on the 2Write icon, then create a new writing pad. Save the new pad and assign it to a year group or class.



Then, either in groups or as a class, children can access the 2Write pad and collaboratively write some success criteria for a **blog page** and **blog post**.



Review the shared success criteria with the children and display this for reference when the children are creating their own blogs. Have children written anything about citing sources within their blogs? This is something that they covered in the Online Safety Units. If they have not included this aspect. Add it to the file including the standard format for citations for text and images.



Lesson 2

Aims

- To plan the theme and content for a blog.

Success criteria

- Children can work collaboratively to plan a blog.

Resources

- Purple Mash 2Connect concept mapping tool.

Activities

1. Review the learning from the previous session. Share the learning objectives and success criteria.
2. Explain to the children that they are going to be planning their own blogs using 2Connect. Discuss the possible choices of topics that children might want to use. Here are some suggestions to get started:
 - A blog about their time at primary school
 - A blog about the transition to secondary school
 - A blog about a place that they have travelled to
 - A school journey blog
 - A blog about a topic that you are studying
 - A blog about a personal interest or talent
3. Show children how to open 2Connect and create a new concept map.

(If you require assistance in using the program, click on the video Help files at the top right of 2Connect.)

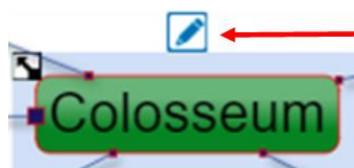


Show children how to create a title node for their concept map by clicking on the stage. Demonstrate how a second node can be added.

Nodes represent concepts or ideas.

Demonstrate how the properties of the node can be edited by clicking the Resize button or the Edit button.

Resize button



Edit button

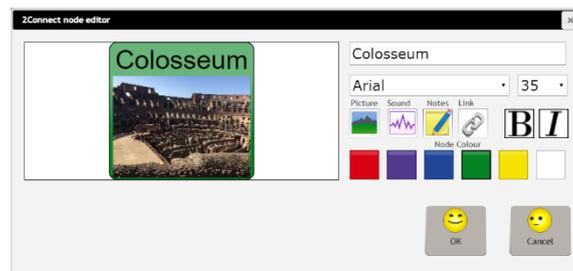


Purple Mash Computing Scheme of Work Unit 6.4 – Blogging – Lesson 2

When editing the properties of a node, click on the Edit button. This opens the node editor. Here the colour, text, font type and font size can be edited. Pictures, sounds and notes can also be added to the node.

Show the children how the two nodes can be joined using a connection. This connection is created by clicking on the node border and dragging a line between the two nodes.

Connections represent a relationship or connection between two nodes or ideas.



Demonstrate how the properties of the connection can be changed by clicking on the arrow.



The children should go to their computers and open 2Connect. They should create a concept map using 2Connect based on the chosen theme of their blog.

Bring the children together and look at some of their completed concept maps.



Lesson 3

Aims

- To understand how to write a blog.
- To consider the effect upon the audience of changing the visual properties of the blog.
- To understand the importance of regularly updating the content of a blog.

Success criteria

- Children can create a blog with a specific purpose.
- Children understand that the way in which information is presented has an impact upon the audience.
- Children understand that blogs need to be updated regularly to maintain the audience's interest and engagement.

Resources

- 2Blog: Children will be using the pupil blogs tool to create personal blogs. This means that their individual blogs will be private. If you wish to make these viewable to other children in the future, you can do this using the Teachers Manage Blogs tool in the Admin section. For further details, see Section 9 of the [2Blog User Guide: Pupil Blogs](#).
- If you wish to demonstrate from a pupil perspective, you can impersonate a user using the Admin tool Impersonate Pupil Login. To do this, click on the Admin tab and open the Impersonate Pupil Login tool. Select one of your students to impersonate.



Activities

1. Review the learning from the previous session. Share the learning objectives and success criteria.
2. Show children how to access 2Blog.

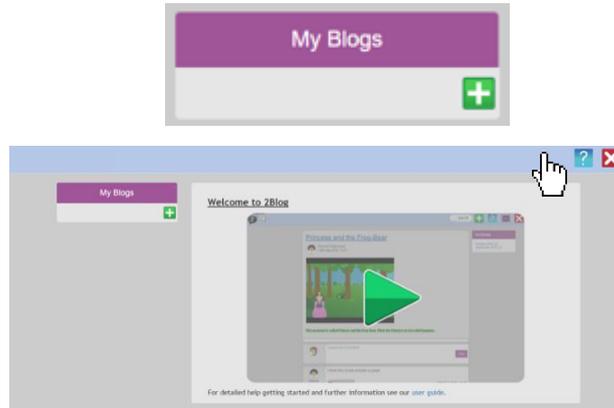


3. Once 2Blog is open, an introductory video will be available.

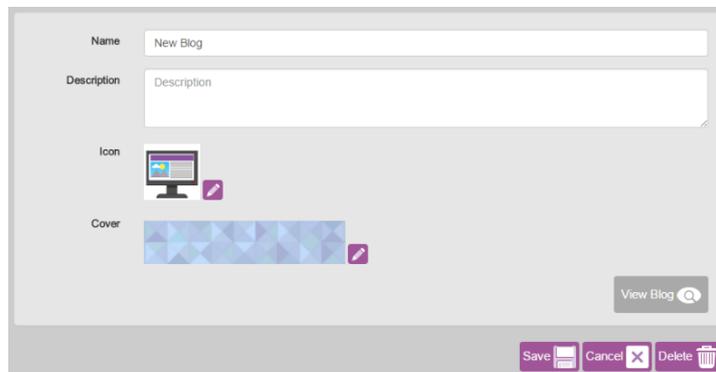


Purple Mash Computing Scheme of Work Unit 6.4 – Blogging – Lesson 3

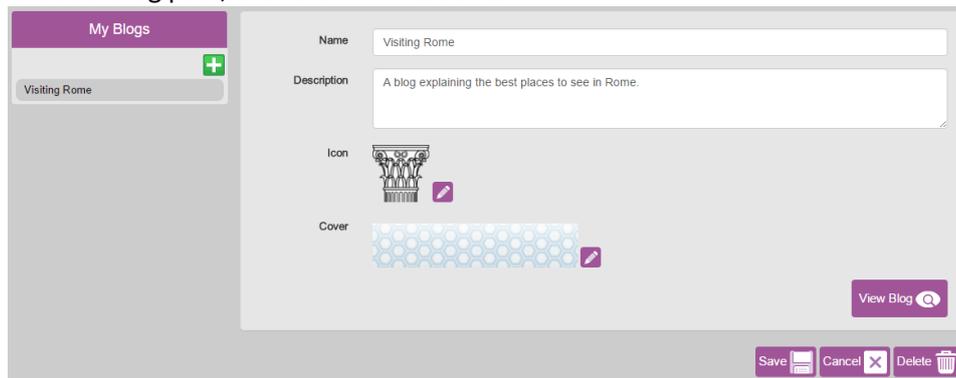
4. Demonstrate to the class how to create a blog by clicking on the Add Blog button in the My Blogs sidebar.



5. When you click on this, you will have the option to name your blog, write a description of it and select an icon and background cover.

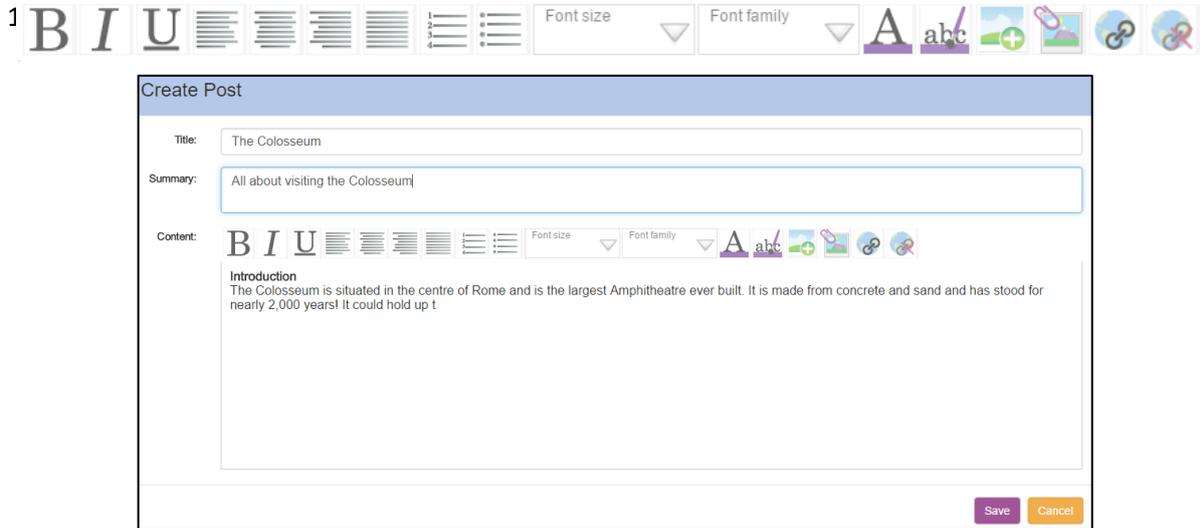


6. Explain to the children the importance of writing an accurate name and description for the blog, as well as selecting appropriate icons and covers. Once this is done, click Save. This will then allow you to view the blog. The blog title will also appear in the My Blogs sidebar.
7. Demonstrate to the children how to write a blog post. Click on View Blog. This will show you the blog page. To add a blog post, click the Add Post button.





8. Demonstrate writing in the title, summary and the content of the post.
9. Demonstrate to the children how it is possible to format the text font, size and style. Demonstrate how to attach a picture, piece of clip art, painted picture or piece of work.



11. Children should use their 2Connect concept maps and the success criteria from the previous sessions to create their own blog page and write their first blog post.
12. Children can find their blogs in the Sharing area of Purple Mash. They will need to look in the tab called My Blogs.



13. Children can now open their blog page on 2Blog and write their next blog post.



Lesson 4

Aims

- To understand how to contribute to an existing blog.
- To understand how and why blog posts are approved by the teacher.

Success criteria

- Children can post comments and additional blog posts to an existing class blog.
- Children understand the approval process that their posts go through and demonstrate an awareness of the issues surrounding inappropriate posts and cyberbullying.

Resources

- To demonstrate the shared class blog to the children, it is useful to use the Impersonate Pupil Login tool so you can show a child's view of the blog. To do this, click on the Admin tab and open the Impersonate Pupil Login tool. Select one of your students to impersonate.



- The teacher needs to create a shared class blog. You can use the blog created in Lesson 1 for this if you wish or choose a different topic. (See [Appendix 1](#) for guidance.)

Important note for teachers:

To improve the flow of the lesson, it is possible to turn off the approvals process for a blog. This means that all posts and comments will be automatically approved and appear live straight-away. To do this, go into the blog

via  and , click on the blog and tick the 'skip approval' box then save these settings. You will need to remember to reverse this process after the lesson to turn the approvals back on.

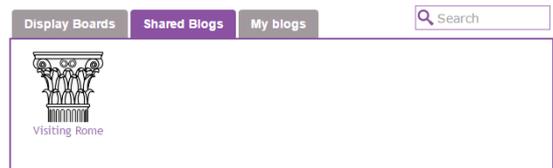
It is also possible to bulk approve all posts and comments so that you don't need to approve each one in turn.

Activities

1. Show the children where to find a shared blog. Shared blogs are found in the Sharing tab.



2. Click on Shared Blogs and any shared blogs will appear.



3. Demonstrate to the class how they can add a blog post to the shared class blog by clicking the Add

Post button .



Purple Mash Computing Scheme of Work Unit 6.4 – Blogging – Lesson 4

4. Explain to the children that any post added to a shared blog in 2Blog needs to be approved by a teacher before it can be seen by the rest of the class. Impersonate a different pupil and demonstrate that they cannot yet see the post by the first student.
5. Ask the children why they think posts need to be approved. Try to draw out answers from children on the issue of inappropriate posts and cyberbullying. Provide the children with guidance about what to do if they do see something upsetting online.
6. Ask what makes an appropriate blog post. The answers can be used as success criteria. Example success criteria appear below.

- Think about the subject you are writing about.
- Think about whether your post make sense.
- Think about how the post might make people feel.
- Think about how the post will be there for all the class to read.
- Think about whether your post would be approved by a teacher.

7. Demonstrate the process of approving blog posts by going back to your own teacher login and showing the children the view that you see and how you approve posts and comments as follows.
8. Teachers can approve blog posts by clicking on their alerts. This will show that they have a blog post awaiting their approval.



9. Click the Go To button. This will take you to the blog post. Here you will need to ensure that the Edit switch is on.

Edit Switch



10. Any post written on the shared blog by the children has an approval switch at the bottom of the post. To approve, click this switch.



11. Once the post has been approved, other users will be able to read it.
12. Children should now open the shared class blog on 2Blog and add their own blog post.



Lesson 5

Aims

- To understand the importance of commenting on blogs.
- To peer-assess blogs against the agreed success criteria.

Success criteria

- Children can comment on and respond to other blogs.
- Children can assess the effectiveness and impact of a blog.

Resources

- The teacher should approve appropriate pupil posts following on from the previous session, so pupils will be able to see them on the class blog. To demonstrate the approvals process for comments, the blog should **NOT** be set to by-pass the approvals process; see teacher note at the end of the last lesson.

Activities

1. Review the learning from the previous session. Share the learning objectives and success criteria.
2. Remind children of the first session, where they created collaborative success criteria on 2Write for writing a blog page and a blog post. Explain to the children that they will use these success criteria to complete a peer assessment of each other's posts on the class's shared blogs.
3. Demonstrate to the class how they can comment by using the comments box at the bottom of a blog post. You could impersonate a user again to do this.

4. Once the comment has been posted, show the children the unapproved comment message.

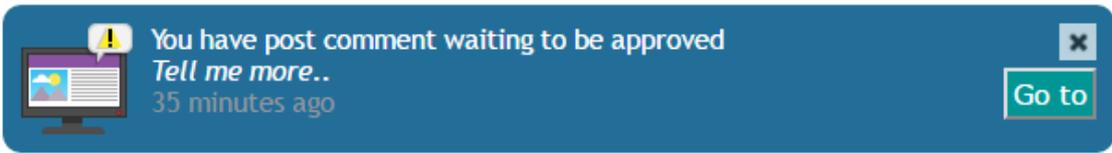
5. Explain to the children that any comment that they put onto a shared blog needs to be approved by a teacher before it can be seen by the rest of the class.
6. Ask the children why they think comments need to be approved. Draw out answers from children on the issue of inappropriate comments and cyberbullying, reinforcing what was said last lesson.



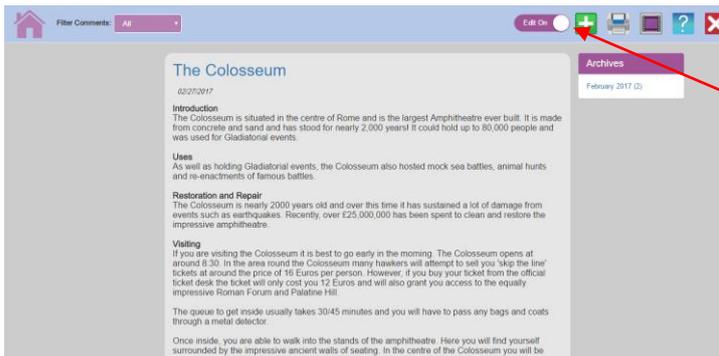
7. What makes an appropriate comment? The answers can be used as success criteria. Some example success criteria are given below.

- Think about the subject you are commenting on.
- Think about whether your comment makes sense.
- Think about how the comment might make people feel.
- Think about how the comment will be there for all the class to read.
- Think about whether your comment would be approved by a teacher.

8. Demonstrate the process of approving comments by ending your impersonation of a pupil.
9. Teachers can approve comments by clicking on their alerts. This will show that they have a comment awaiting their approval.

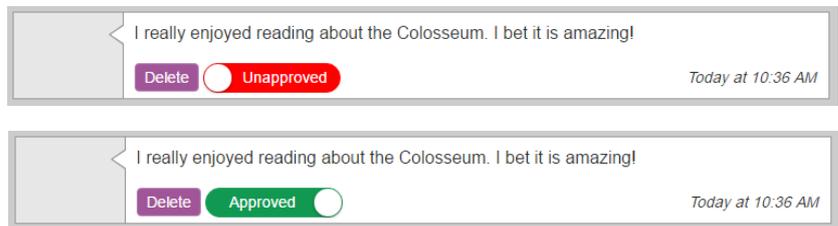


10. This will take you to the blog post. Here you will need to ensure that the Edit switch is on.



Edit switch

11. Then scroll down to the bottom of the screen. Here the teacher can approve blog comments.



12. Once the post or comment has been approved, other users will be able to read it.
13. Children should open the shared class blog on 2Blog and complete a peer assessment of their posts using the comments box and the success criteria created in the first lesson.
14. If possible, the teacher should approve the children’s comments in real time to aid the flow of the lesson and enable further commenting. **See the teachers note at the end of the previous lesson for how to ‘turn-off’ the approvals process; you will need to discuss this with children if you chose to turn-off approvals, so they are not confused.**



Appendix 1

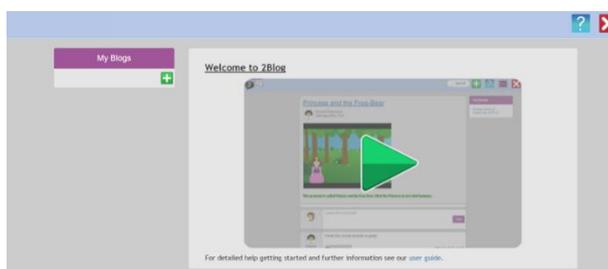
The following appendix will show you how to create a blog using 2Blog in preparation for the unit. A further [User Guide](#) is available in [the Teacher Guides and Planning area](#). You will need to create an example blog to demonstrate what a blog should contain. This will be used in Lesson 1.

It is important to note that there are really two linked Blog tools within Purple Mash: class blogs and pupil blogs. Pupil blogs are self-contained blogs that only the creating pupil can see and add to; these do not go through an approval process. Class blogs are set up so that several people can add posts, view and comment and all pupil comments and posts go through an approval process before others can see them. The teacher can convert pupil blogs into class blogs if required. You can turn off the approvals process for a class blog should you wish to improve the flow of a blogging lesson but it is advisable to turn the approvals process back on afterwards.

This appendix takes you through the process of creating a class blog and notes the differences between setting up a class blog and setting up a pupil blog so that you can advise children.

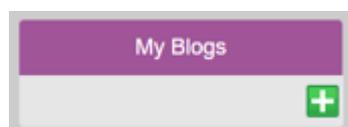


1. To make a blog, open 2Blog in the Tools area or click on **Admin** then **Manage Blogs**.
2. When you open 2Blog, an introductory video will be available.



3. Create a blog by clicking on the Add Blog button in the My Blogs sidebar. Pupils will only see the My Blogs option in this sidebar. Teachers see two tabs: Class Blogs and Pupil Blogs.

Pupil View

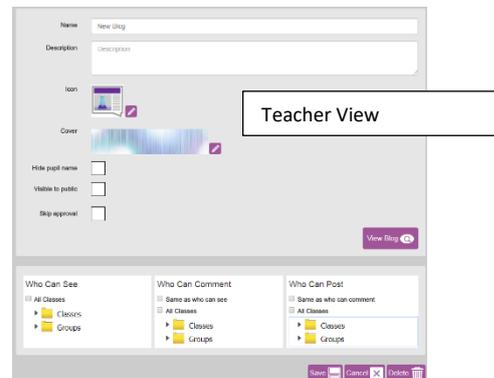
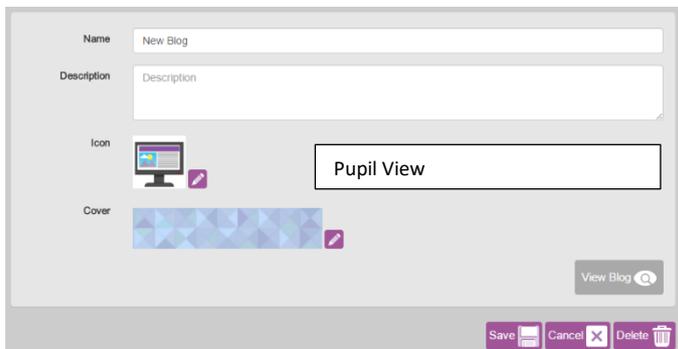


Teacher View



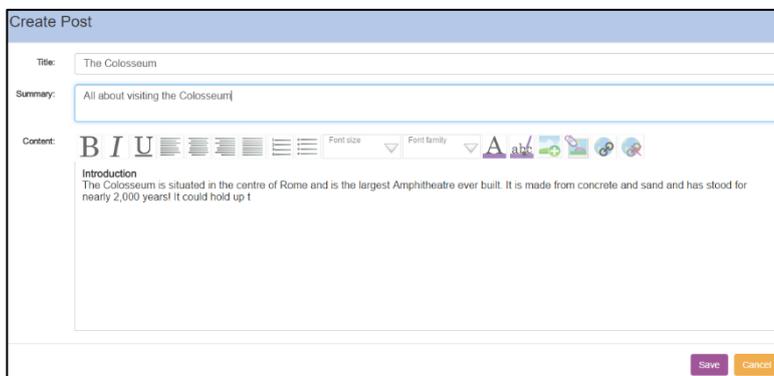


- When you click on Add Blog, you have the option to name your blog, write a description for your blog, select an icon and select a background cover. Class blogs have additional options to set who can see, post and comment on blogs. They also have the options to remove pupil names from blogs (if a blog is to be set to public) and to skip the approvals process.
- Once you have selected options and clicked 'Save', you can view the blog using the 'View Blog' button.

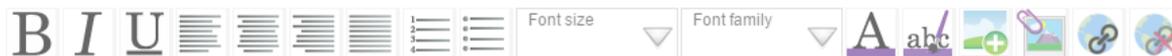


The blog title will also appear in the My Blogs sidebar.

- Click on View Blog. This will show you the blog page. To add a blog post, click the Add Post button.
- Write in the title, summary and the content of the post.



- It is possible to format the text font, size and style using the toolbar. It is also possible to attach a picture, piece of clip art, painted picture or piece of work.



- Children access the blogs by clicking on the Sharing tab.



Sharing

- Pupil (non-shared) blogs will appear on the My Blogs tab. Class blogs appear on the Shared Blogs tab.



Display Boards **Shared Blogs** My blogs



Visiting Rome



Assessment Guidance

The unit overview for year 6 contains details of national curricula mapped to the Purple Mash Units. The following information is an exemplar of what a child at an expected level would be able to demonstrate when completing this unit with additional exemplars to demonstrate how this would vary for a child with emerging or exceeding achievements.

Assessment Guidance	
Emerging	<p>Children can identify some of the key features of a blog and share these using 2Write (Unit 6.4 Lesson 1).</p> <p>With limited support, they can create a suitable blog for a purpose and can post comments on an existing class blog (Unit 6.4 Lesson 2 & 3).</p> <p>Children are aware there is an approval process that their posts go through and demonstrate an awareness of the issues surrounding inappropriate posts and cyberbullying (Unit 6.4 Lesson 4. Point 6). Children understand the importance of being respectful on the internet.</p> <p>Children understand the basic features of a blog and some of the differences between a blog page and a blog post (Unit 6.4 Lesson 1. Point 12). Children work collaboratively (Unit 6.4 Lesson 2. Point 2) and individually (Unit 6.4 Lesson 3. Point 12) to plan, design and create a simple blog. Children become contributors to a blog, their responses to blog posts may be basic (Unit 6.4 Lesson 4. Point 12).</p> <p>Most children will be able to create a blog with multimedia content and format it appropriately using 2Blog (Unit 6.4. Lesson 3 Point 9). They can post comments and blog posts to existing blogs with a complete awareness of how information is presented has an impact on the audience (Unit 6.4).</p>
Expected	<p>Children can identify the key features of a blog and share these using 2Write (Unit 6.4 Lesson 1). They can create a blog for a specific purpose and can post comments on an existing class blog (Unit 6.4 Lesson 2 & 3).</p> <p>Children recognise the approval process that their posts go through and demonstrate an awareness of the issues surrounding inappropriate posts and cyberbullying (Unit 6.4 Lesson 4. Point 6).</p> <p>Children understand the features of a blog and the differences between a blog page and a blog post (Unit 6.4 Lesson 1. Point 12). Children work collaboratively (Unit 6.4 Lesson 2. Point 2) and individually (Unit 6.4 Lesson 3. Point 12) to plan, design and create a blog. Children become active contributors to a blog, carefully considering their responses to blog posts (Unit 6.4 Lesson 4. Point 12).</p> <p>Children become active contributors to a blog, carefully considering their responses to blog posts to ensure that they are always respectful (Unit 6.4 Lesson 4. Point 12). Children understand the implications of inappropriate use of the blog.</p> <p>In lesson 1, children create a collaborative file with tips for good blog posts, this should include notes about citing sources. Children should then follow this advice when creating their blogs.</p>



Assessment Guidance

Exceeding	<p>Children can critique good examples of blogs share these using 2Write (Unit 6.4 Lesson 1). They can create a range of blogs for a specific purpose and audience and can comment on an existing class blogs (Unit 6.4 Lesson 2 & 3).</p> <p>Children understand why there is an approval process for any posts and understand the issues surrounding inappropriate posts and cyberbullying (Unit 6.4 Lesson 4. Point 6).</p> <p>Children demonstrating greater depth, understand that 2Blog is an introduction to the world of blogging and is a way for the user to become a content creator on the internet. As such the content included in their blog carefully considers the end user (Throughout Unit).</p> <p>Children demonstrating greater depth, understand that 2Blog is an introduction to the world of blogging and is a way for the user to become a content creator on the internet. As such they understand the implications of inappropriate use of the blog and how this relates to the real world.</p>
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