MAKING COMPUTING
child's play

At Berkhampstead, we teach the children a wide range of computing skills and aim to instil in them plenty of confidence and the knowledge to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.

Our computing curriculum is aimed at developing digital literacy and an understanding of an array of digital devices. In the Pre-Prep, children are introduced to typing, taking photos, recording video and internet research. These skills then enable the children to begin to explore photo editing, programming and making simple animations.

In the Prep School, the children continue with skills learnt in the Pre-Prep, and are also introduced to programming, simulation, website design, sound editing, digital imagery and graphics editing, along with more traditional areas of computing, such as presentation, text and data handling.

All Prep children have an hours' computing lesson a week, but use this knowledge in other lessons and often homework too.

Online safety is an integral part of our teaching, and we promote an emphasis on e-safety both within school and at home. This is taught in computing lessons and CWB.

We use iPad Air 2s and MacBook Airs, and all our classrooms have screens that are used by staff to enhance their lessons and create a stimulating learning experience.

Y6 E-SAFETY POSTER

"We learnt all about online safety, and then had to design posters using Pic Collage.

I enjoyed experimenting with different fonts because I like graphic design."

COMPUTING AROUND THE SCHOOL

RECEPTION
Reception used Google Earth to find Berkhampstead and their homes. They learnt about the different functions of Google Earth, and particularly enjoyed zooming into explore the streets.
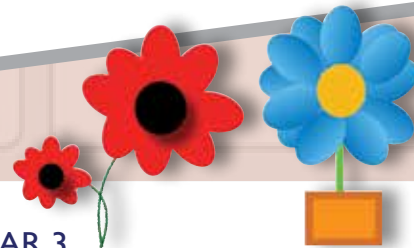
"I loved looking at my home on the iPad because it looked so small. I took a screen shot of my house and printed it."

YEAR 2
As part of their Pacific Islands topic, Year 2 used MacBooks to create an information sheet about Hawaii. They used Pages, and learnt how to import images from Google.

"MacBooks are really useful.

You can find out anything. I liked dragging the picture to the writing."

YEAR 3
Learning how to be graphic designers, Year 3 used Autodesk Graphic to design their own flowers. They made different shaped petals, filled their petals with advanced gradient tints, learnt how to change image size in proportion and duplicate their designs.

"Computing is one of my favourite lessons. I made lots of poppies, and I thought Mr Cross explained everything very well."

YEAR 5
Year 5 were taught about Computer Aided Design (CAD) to make buildings. They used two programmes - Google Sketch Up and Toca Builders. Shown below is a finished design.

"I love computing lessons - CAD is great fun, and I also like making posters - my favourite was the one about Bugatti Chirons."

YEAR 6
Year 6 went on a geography field trip to the Severn estuary, Wye Valley, Symonds Yat and Cannop Ponds. They used iPads to photograph and record findings to put into Keynote.

"We used iPads to record the data we collected about the speed, width and depth of the river.

We also took pictures ready to make a presentation on Keynote."