

Year 6 Topic

Tomorrow's World



There are so many ways to communicate: text messages, blogs, emails and podcasts. Which do we prefer?

During this learning project, we'll interview a web designer or blogger, investigating the process their work goes through. After looking at a range of blogs and emails, we'll write a letter to our headteacher to ask if we can create a class blog. We'll learn about the history of computing, which surprisingly goes back 6000 years to the Antikythera mechanism and find out how optical fibre cables are used. Through further exploration of modern technology, we'll learn about some of the amazing people responsible for its development. In our ICT work, we'll investigate how to decide whether a website is trustworthy and what malware is. We'll write a thriller based on exciting technology and learn about how robots can help us. We'll explore how to write an algorithm and how to keep safe online. We'll learn all about lasers, and make periscopes and complex circuits.

At the end of the project, we'll create a podcast for you to listen to and we'll think about the future of technology.

Help your child prepare for their project

If the world today relies so heavily on technology, what will it be like in 'tomorrow's world'? Why not go on a technology hunt to locate computerised and robotic devices in your home? You could also create a survey to find out how much time your family and friends spend using technology each day. Alternatively, go online to research a significant figure in the computing world. What did they discover and how did this influence our daily lives?

What will you choose to do?

- Explain some common computing terms to a friend or family member who might not have heard of them: firewall, app, e-book, emoticon, phishing, wiki, blog and QWERTY.
- Make a list of all the computerised and robotic devices in your home. Ask a relative or friend to do the same then compare lists. Are there any similarities or differences? Present your findings using ICT.
- Write a biography about a significant figure in the computing world. Check facts by cross-referencing different sources.
- Make a digital presentation about the web and include guidance for online safety.
- Design an internet 'scavenger hunt' for your parents or carers of 10 or more things to search for using a computer. Could they do it? Give them a mark out of 10!
- Research and identify useful apps designed to help people improve their spelling or learn their times tables. Present your work as a list of hyperlinks.
- Listen to a podcast and make a note of any key facts and information. Report your findings back to the class. Would you recommend they listen to the next one?
- Survey your friends, family and classmates to find out how much time they spend online, texting or watching TV each day. Present your findings in a chart.
- Do some market research. What are the top five websites used by your family and friends? What do they like and dislike about the websites?
- Learn about different codes, such as the reverse alphabet or Morse code. Experiment by sending short messages to your friends or family members. Can they understand you?
- Write a job advert to recruit a top spy. What skills and experience would they need?
- Write a diary entry using only emoticons! Share your ideas with a friend. How well do the emoticons show what you did and how you felt?



