

## Computing – Miss Curtis



Hi, I am Miss Curtis and I am the Computing lead here at Hanwell. I was Computing lead at my previous school and acquired the role when I started at Hanwell. In total, I have around 5 years of experience leading this area.

Admittedly, I was first thrust into leading Computing as many of my fellow teachers feared the subject at my previous school- as I am sure many children and adults can relate to! Practise truly does make perfect for adults and children alike and it is always a privilege to see how much progress and positivity can be achieved. For me it is an

amazing subject to lead and one that I find excites the children when they see it on the timetable. Computing is fabulous and once you explore and increase your digital fluency (understanding) then it has the potential to enhance your daily life, career or schoolwork. The trick is not to be afraid and have a go and it is always handy to know where the undo button is located!

My aim as a subject leader is to enable all our children at Hanwell to be digitally literate. That means they understand, can access and critically evaluate technology. Each year the children will be building their subject knowledge in a wide range of areas such as coding, effective searching, using different software and communicating online. At all times we encourage independence, responsibility for actions and kindness.

This school year we have been fortunate enough to purchase 60 Chrome Books. This has enabled the whole school to have reliable and speedy technology to use in their Computing lessons. Some of these have even been loaned to families to enable them to access online learning at home. Right now, Computing is even more important than ever before. Never did I imagine when I first became a teacher that I would be sat with a small group of children in a classroom and approximately 20 other learners at the other end of my laptop. Technology is allowing us to connect and adapt to suit our own needs so that our home learners can still access lessons and keep in touch with one another. The teachers and children at Hanwell have blown me away during this unusual period; they have been extremely resilient, patient and problem-solved on numerous occasions. Whilst technology has those “let’s just turn it off and then on again and see if it works” moments, when it works it truly is incredible.

Purpose is key to developing good Computing skills. Always think about how it can benefit you and tinker around until you achieve what you want to. Answers to spontaneous questions which pop into our minds can be solved at the click of a few buttons. Unsurprisingly, in 2020 the most popular global searches on Google were: “Coronavirus” and “election results”, and President-elect Joe Biden was the most-searched person. The Internet provides us with the opportunity to keep up to date with current affairs, communicate with others and research about the world around us.

Here is the Sway I have put together with an activity you can try at home.

<https://sway.office.com/necRHIUubnZx7aYK?ref=Link>