

I hope the first few weeks of this new and unusual school year have gone well for you and that you're back up and running in the "new (and ever changing) norm" however that's panning out for you. In this newsletter (rapidly turning into a magazine – sorry!) I'm reinforcing many of the points I made in the [last one](#) – importantly, simple steps to make sure you're ready and prepared should another lockdown occur (and everything below is good practice anyway). It won't surprize you that the first item is:

Seesaw

The topic for the most frequently asked questions at the moment! If you've not heard of Seesaw you haven't read one of these newsletters for a few years, nor seen much of me in your school.

This is your number one tool against lockdown and the great news is that there is not much you need to do to be ready, a bit more if you want to be really ready, but actually (as I've been saying for years) this is the most splendid tool for classroom use anyway.



Seesaw is free and comes with incredible tools and levels of support before you need to consider buying it. Get started on your own by visiting <https://seesaw.me>, creating an account, creating your class and you're away. Make sure you head over to Home Learning Codes, print them out and give each named sheet to your children to take home. That's it, those are the fundamental steps to cover yourself. If lockdown strikes tomorrow, your children just need to sign in at home by scanning their own QR code and you convert your classroom to digital and your audience is waiting!

Well, yes, ideally you'll do a bit more than that but those are the most important steps.

If you'd like to know more, I'm running a whole series of short online courses in Zoom between 3.45 and 4.30 on a range of dates supporting you to use Seesaw at beginner and a more advanced level. See below for details. Or [if you want me to come in](#) and deliver a staff meeting I'm available to do that too, tailored to your needs.

Blended learning – what’s that and how do we do it?



One of my current “soap-box” subjects, a rant is coming ... Blended learning has become a bit of a buzz word. It means teaching (or delivering your teaching) in such a way that learning can take place in the classroom and at home. It’s a great concept and one could argue that we should be doing it anyway – but “never let a serious crisis go to waste!” There is, however, one fundamental problem that gets overlooked (don’t give up here; there are solutions below – I’m just getting into my rant first) and that is - given that blended learning requires a substantial helping of DIGITAL - how are teachers supposed

to do that when the tech resources in school are (for most) at such pitifully low levels? Or to put it another way: “If I have access to half a set of iPads for my children every second Tuesday afternoon how can I make proper use of them?”

The obvious and best solution would be quickly to reverse more than a decade of under investment in tech in schools so that education can join the 21st century digital world instead of living in the middle of the 20th.

When it comes to Seesaw though, there is a way you can get up and running, and at the same time upskill yourself and your children, and that is to **use Seesaw for homework**. Most homes have better digital provision than the majority of schools can provide. With a little bit of good timetabling of your resources, you can set many good homework tasks that begin to “flip the classroom” by asking children to prepare something at home ready for learning the next day. Tech starts to become “transformational” then! It could be something as simple as taking four photos at home that illustrate a concept, and saving them to seesaw because tomorrow you’re going to use them in a short video you’ll make in Clips to show your understanding of ... (other video editing solutions are available!) With a camera and a microphone and (when back in school, not at home) the facility to share findings around the class and comment on each other’s work), there are endless possibilities.

Of course, there other things to consider. “**Bring your own device**” (BYOD) means children would bring in their tech from home each day – tech which otherwise sits doing nothing from 9-3. This needs careful implementation but it’s a possibility worthy of consideration.

There are also excellent schemes, run by charities such as [BeLF](#) that provide a framework for **parents to finance the purchase of tablets for students** that then become home / school devices – there will be more from me very soon on this.

Finally, it’s worth looking at the many ways you can **use your school’s “[Coronavirus catch-up premium](#)”** (£80 per pupil) to focus on tech spending to help you in your efforts to bring children back up to speed in learning. [A guide published by the Education Endowment Foundation](#) helps with strategies here.

Bitesize online CPD for October - mitigating potential lockdown

A series of 45 minute online training sessions, 3.45 and 4.30 pm. These are FREE TO ATTEND, you just need to book in. They are all aimed at getting you up and running for home learning, though also relevant for general classroom use at any time. If you'd prefer a staff meeting session in school [please let me know](#).

Seesaw – level 1 (45 minutes) – Monday 12th October, Wednesday 21st October – [BOOK HERE](#)

- Introduction to Seesaw
- Creating an account - Setting up your class – home learning codes
- Posting to the journal
- Comments (approval, online safety and responsibility)
- Class settings (the spanner)
- The Drawing tool

Seesaw – level 2 (45 minutes) – Thursday 15th, Tuesday 27th October – [BOOK HERE](#)

- Activities (Activities library, Making your own, “Marking”)
- Folders, blog, co-teachers
- Announcements (children / families)
- Families

Zoom for home learning – Monday 19th October – [BOOK HERE](#)

- Overview of Zoom
- What to expect
- Setting up and sharing a meeting
- Ground rules
- Useful tools for teaching (Mute, chat, Share screen, Breakout rooms ...)
- Other solutions – comparison

An overview of [Learning by Questions](#) – Tuesday 13th October – [BOOK HERE](#)

- LbQ helps teachers to plan, teach, assess
- In class or remote – ideal for home learning / blended learning
- 80,000 online questions to choose from each with personalised feedback for the pupil
- Mastery approach in Maths and SpaG
- An introduction to the wealth of Reading Resources
- Instant view of class progress, alerting you to where to intervene

This session will be led by Jon Chambers from LbQ, with a guest Y6 Primary teacher and LbQ Ambassador explaining how his school has used LbQ alongside Seesaw.

An overview of [Purple Mash](#) – Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th November – [BOOK HERE](#)

- Completely cross curricular perfect for home and school use, EYFS to Y6
- Includes a comprehensive Computing scheme of work for Reception to Year 6
- Assessment tool with judgement descriptors.
- Incorporates a Digital Leaders Scheme
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This session will be led by Andy Hopkins from 2Simple , Andy@2simple.com for FREE TRIAL and web demo for your school.

Video conferencing

The second most asked question! This should be nowhere near as high on your priority list at the moment as Seesaw. You can easily add this once you have a line of communication to home which Seesaw provides. It is non-the-less a very valuable tool and the one that parents will like you most for. And the question? Should I use Zoom or Microsoft Teams?

Zoom – really easy to get up and running in just a couple of minutes. Great functionality, really easy to use. I like it very much. The free version comes with a 40 minute limit on meetings. Zoom offer the next level up for free to schools at the moment but, unless things have improved, they are so slow at processing the requests it's not much use! You can involve anyone in a meeting simply by sending them a weblink (which you can do in Seesaw). There was criticism of Zoom in the early days of lockdown around security (Zoom Bombing) which the company quickly addressed and there are now no worries – despite what you might be told.

Teams – Provided by Microsoft, is free or at least it's likely you've already paid for it in what you already pay to Microsoft. If you have someone to setup you "team" then this is a good solution, it can take you quite some time to get going if not. Very similar functionality to Zoom.

The undisputed Herefordshire champion of teaching via video conference is Sara Herriott who shares, [in this brilliant article](#) some of the amazing learning that was going on from her classroom at Brampton Abbots between March and July. It's a really good read!

Cleaning iPad screens

If you're sharing iPads around classes you have a potential leak in your bubble!. [Here is one helpful site](#) but briefly here are some steps you might consider:

- If you can avoid sharing tech, or at least limit the number of people who use each device, that's good practice anyway.
- Clean all surfaces before returning iPads.
 - Use screen wipes or specialist screen cleaner. Don't use chemicals or disinfectant which can damage the surface over time.
 - Apply any cleaning solution to a soft cloth (not paper towels etc.) cloth, not directly to the device
- Wash hands before and after use / cleaning
- Try to avoid touching your face while using a shared iPad



Online Safety – framework and resources

Education for a
Connected World
– 2020 edition

A framework to equip children
and young people for digital life



The official Government endorsed framework for Online Safety education in schools is now UKCIS's [Education for a Connected World](#). This is a well thought through framework, consisting of eight key strands that run from Early Years to Sixth Form. It's

now fully incorporated into the [Herefordshire Computing Progression](#) (see below).

Better still perhaps, gradually and quietly gaining momentum, has been some materials that are being produced through a collaboration between the *UK Safer*

Internet Centre and the *South West Grid for Learning* entitled [ProjectEVOLVE](#). These materials, due to be officially launched in October, put meat on the bones of the UKCIS framework by providing teaching resources. There are still areas that are to be developed but it's well worth a look. Again, it's embedded into the 2020 version of the Herefordshire materials.



Online Safety from home: Embark on The Legends Family Adventure!



Developed by Google, Parent Zone and Aardman, This is an animated series that follows a family of Internauts on an exciting online safety adventure. The accompanying challenge gives families the chance to win prizes for their school.

[Register for the challenge here](#) to find out know more [book onto a free online workshop for teachers here](#).

Another good way to get into the materials would be to sign up for one of their free live assemblies. There's an example of one [here](#).

Home Learning Policy

I was asked for one of these by several schools at the start of the lockdown. An internet failed to deliver a good one [so I wrote this](#). It's based on some suggestions for good practice from the South West Grid for Learning and designed as a discussion / CPD resource as much as a policy and if you get a chance to discuss it as a staff team that will bring rewards.

Children's Wellbeing, Learning and Achievement Service - Herefordshire Computing Support

A policy for home learning with technology

A template for whole school discussion

This document is available to download and edit at hsa@hsa.herefordshirecomputing.com



Herefordshire Computing Progression 2020

Children's Wellbeing - Learning and Achievement Service - Herefordshire Computing Support

The Herefordshire Primary Computing Progression 2020 Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) - a revised version of the 2014 materials



This document can be found, with supporting resources, at [herefordshire.gov.uk](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk)



Children's Wellbeing - Learning and Achievement Service - Herefordshire Computing Support

The Herefordshire Primary Computing Progression 2020 Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) - a revised version of the 2014 materials



This document can be found, with supporting resources, at [herefordshire.gov.uk](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk)



Children's Wellbeing - Learning and Achievement Service - Herefordshire Computing Support

The Herefordshire Primary Computing Progression 2020 Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6) - a revised version of the 2014 materials



This document can be found, with supporting resources, at [herefordshire.gov.uk](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk)



You can be forgiven for not noticing this item on the last newsletter and if that's the case you might like to know that I used some time early in the lockdown to carry out a complete overhaul of the Herefordshire 2014 progression materials. This was quite a big piece of work and these materials now are fit for purpose again, and shorter! Much more detail about what has changed [on the website](#) (which has also benefited from a bit of lockdown therapy). And if you're using these materials there's also a [coordinator's guide to surviving a deep dive](#) in Computing. Remember those? Ofsted will have their wetsuits on again one day!)

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A part of Herefordshire's Learning and Achievement Service