



SPOTLIGHT ON COMPUTING

This half term, our 'of the week' is Digital Superstar of the week, but what does computing look like at Barkisland? What does it mean to be a 'Digital Superstar at our school?

This mini newsletter will give you an overview of computing at Barkisland.

How is computing taught at Barkisland?

At Barkisland, we follow the iCompute scheme, which provides a structured, engaging, and hands-on approach to teaching computing across all year groups. This ensures that children develop key skills in coding, computational thinking, digital literacy, and using technology effectively.

We also place a strong emphasis on E-safety, teaching it throughout the year as a core part of our curriculum. It is integrated into focus weeks and across different subjects to help children understand how to stay safe and responsible online in real-world contexts.

Computing at Barkisland is not just about using technology—it's about preparing children for a digital future, fostering problem-solving skills, creativity, and responsible online behaviour.

Why is E-Safety so important?

E-safety is essential because it helps children understand how to stay safe and behave responsibly online. As technology becomes a bigger part of everyday life, it's important that young people learn how to protect themselves from potential risks, such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, and privacy issues.

At Barkisland, we teach E-safety to ensure children not only use the internet confidently and creatively but also safely. By embedding E-safety in our curriculum, we aim to empower children to make smart, informed decisions online, helping them to recognise and respond to any online dangers they might face.

In today's world, where much of our communication, learning, and entertainment happens digitally, promoting safe and respectful online behaviour is key to building responsible digital citizens for the future.



What is iCompute?

As of Autumn term, we have adopted a new scheme for teaching computing – iCompute. After careful research and trials, we found that iCompute was a great fit for Barkisland, offering inspiring and engaging lesson ideas as well as challenge for our confident Digital Superstars! It covers a wide range of topics, such as coding, digital literacy, and using technology, ensuring children develop key skills for the digital age.

One of the strengths of iCompute is how it revisits topics each year, building on prior knowledge and vocabulary. As children progress through the school, they are given opportunities to develop their skills further and apply what they've learned in new and more complex contexts. For example, while children in EYFS begin by learning basic coding and digital safety, older pupils will build on these skills to tackle more challenging projects, such as creating apps or developing more advanced online programmes.

This approach helps reinforce learning and ensures that children's computing knowledge grows steadily throughout their primary education. At Barkisland, we use iCompute to create a strong, continuous learning journey, equipping our students with the confidence and skills to succeed in the digital world.



Wake Up Wednesday: Supporting Your Child's Well-being and Safety

Wake Up Wednesday, an initiative from The National College, provides parents with free, easy-to-access resources to help support their child's online safety, mental health, and general well-being. Through this platform, you can access helpful guides, videos, and tips on important topics such as staying safe online, boosting mental health, and making a positive impact on climate change.

I encourage you to make use of these valuable materials to stay informed and help create a safer, healthier environment for your child.

We also share these regularly on our X (Twitter) page.

<https://nationalcollege.com/library?sortBy=relevance&phase=15&types%5B0%5D=App%5CModels%5CRes>