Dear Parents / Guardians,

The students in Years 3 to 6 will be embarking on a new eLearning journey to promote enthusiasm and excitement towards their learning. Your child will create and maintain their own Learning Blog to use as a personal reflection of individual learning and as a way to communicate and connect with their teacher and in the future, you as their parents / guardians. ICT lessons will allow us to begin working on this project to help facilitate the initial set up of this new learning environment.

**HOW IT WORKS**

Each student will have their own personal blog using Global2. This is a government endorsed hosting website linked to Edublogs. Global2 is dedicated to educational use only and has been created specifically for student users. It is free and does not require site licensing or costs. Joining Global2 requires an email for all users and must be school generated, i.e. user@willynthps.vic.edu.au (not Hotmail etc.). This adds to the security of the service. Students may want to work on their blog outside of class. All that is required is an Internet connection and a web browser. Having a real audience is one of the key components of this program, in addition to receiving feedback from classmates and teachers, and in the future, parents / guardians.

**ONLINE SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Please note that absolutely no personal information about your child will be shared during the course of this project. We will use only first names or nicknames to refer to any student. Online safety will be infused throughout the entire project. It’s important to note that even though these blogs are stored on the internet, they are not accessible to the public or via a search engine. These blogs will have strict privacy settings and can only be viewed with a username and password. All student Learning Blogs will be tagged to a central classroom blog, however in the initial stages of this project students will only communicate via the classroom blog and not within individual student blogs.

**MORE ABOUT BLOGS**

A blog is a type of online journal in the form of a website that can be created and easily updated using a web browser. The exciting thing about a blog is that students can take advantage of the wealth of resources available online, in particular Web 2.0 tools and applications, to publish their work online.

**BLOGGING TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. Students are expected to comply with the WNPS Learning Technology Acceptable Use Policy and the Student Code of Practice.
2. Students using blogs are expected to act safely not sharing personal information, for example, family name, password, user name, email address, home address or any other information that could help someone locate or contact them.
3. Students using blogs are expected to treat blogs as classroom spaces. Communication that is inappropriate for the classroom is also inappropriate for classroom and individual Learning Blogs. While it is encouraged that students engage in debate and conversation with their peers on the classroom blog, it is expected that students will conduct themselves in a manner reflective of a representative of our school.
4. Student blogs are a forum for student expression. However, they are first and foremost a tool for learning, and as such, sometimes will be constrained by the various requirements and rules of classroom teachers. Students are welcome to post on any school-appropriate subject.
5. Student blogs are to be a vehicle for sharing student writing with real audiences. Students are expected to leave comments that are respectful and/or helpful. All blogs will be closely monitored, however if a comment makes anyone feel uncomfortable or is not respectful, students are obligated to notify a teacher straight away. They are not to respond or comment.
6. Students using blogs are to take good care of their computers by not downloading or installing software without permission. Global2 just be school generated, i.e. user@willynthps.vic.edu.au (not Hotmail etc.). This adds to the security of the service. Students may want to work on their blog outside of class. All that is required is an Internet connection and a web browser.
7. Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in this project.

Should you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me via the following email address:
minton.felicity.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Kind regards,
Felicity Minton
eLearning Leader

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**Student Signature**  **Parent Signature**  **Date:**

Please complete the following permission form and return it to your child’s teacher by Friday 7th June. This project will commence in Week 9 of Term 2. I have read and understood these blogging terms and conditions. I agree to uphold them.