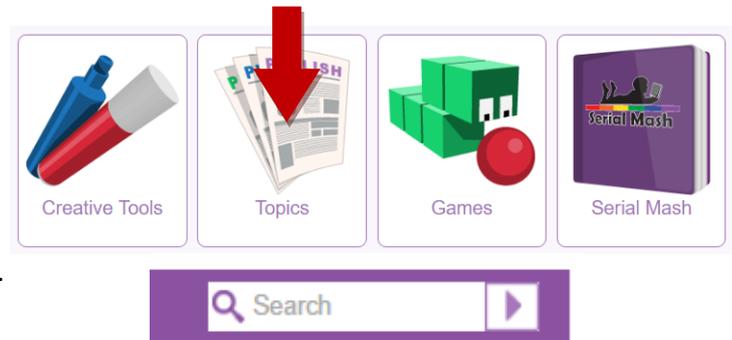## Dear Parent/Carer,

Our school has recently subscribed to Purple Mash, a creative educational website for children. Purple Mash is a cross-curricular resource covering Art to Science and all subjects in between, allowing for easy ICT integration and promoting creative technology use in all classes as well as in the computer lab. The software is both a teacher resource and a tool for learners. Your child can access Purple Mash from home on a laptop, desktop or a tablet.

Purple Mash is a safe environment that does **not** require any downloading or allow interaction with people online outside of the school portal and children **cannot** make any financial transactions.

We will be encouraging the children to continue their learning at home and Purple Mash is a great resource for this. Your child will be taught how to use Purple Mash in school and will be able to use it without supervision, but you may want to take a few minutes to explore it yourself so that you can help them with their work.

Topics

Purple Mash has over 2,500 ready-to-use writing and painting projects. They cover everything from aliens to the Victorians. You can use the 'Topics' tab to browse by subject or, alternatively, use the search bar at the bottom right of the screen to look for something specific.
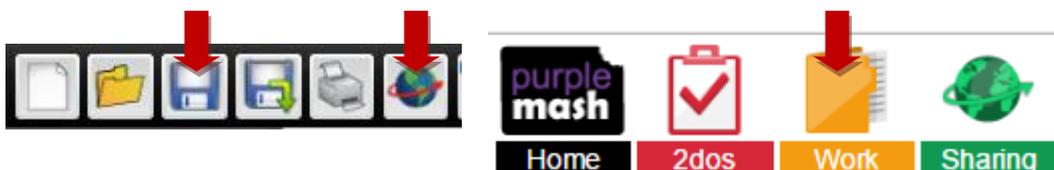

Tools and Games

There are 25+ open-ended tools and games inside Purple Mash. They range in complexity from simple painting programs to sophisticated coding, animation and blogging tools. If you're using something for the first time it is a good idea to watch the help videos which can be found by clicking the monitor icon at the top right of the screen or the help documents.

Saving and Sharing Work

Purple Mash lets your child save their work online. It's very easy, just look out for the floppy disk icon on the toolbar and follow the simple instructions. To access saved files go to the 'Work' tab. Once saved, you can also 'share' work. Just look out for the globe icon on the toolbar. This will share work to one of our school's "display boards" or create a link so your work can be viewed online by people that don't have Purple Mash.

Want to know more?

More information on 2Simple and Purple Mash are available on their website www.2simple.co.za or find them on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/2SimpleSA/

If you're keen to get to know Purple Mash inside and out, there is a wealth of video resources on the 2Simple Software YouTube channel and which can be accessed here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cech0krSVEE

2Code

2Code puts children as young as five on the path to becoming computer programmers. Everything is broken down into step-by-step lessons with video instructions. If you want to find out the kinds of things that your children will be learning then having a go at 2Code yourself is a great place to start.

Mini Mash

Mini Mash is a virtual classroom that allows children from the ages of 2 to 5 to explore the learning areas that are covered in a pre-school class while engaging with technology in an age-appropriate environment with loads of fun games and activities.

Serial Mash

Serial Mash is an optional extra for your Purple Mash licence. This online library is all about getting children to read for pleasure. New books are released twice a term as a weekly serial. The chapters come with a range of fun and educational activities. Serial Mash is great for solo or guided reading and can be read on tablets. You can take a look the books in the 'Serial Mash' tab.

Purple Mash on Tablets

If you have an iPad (or a tablet) you will be able to log in to your Purple Mash account on there too. You might notice one or two slight differences between this and the desktop version, but it's almost exactly the same.