

Dear Parents,

I am writing to ask whether you give your permission and support for X to begin his own blog.

As you know, we have a system in 2KM where students *earn* their blog. Earning a blog is a privilege that comes with some responsibilities.

X's responsibilities would be:

- Working with a family member on blog posts. It doesn't matter if you/other family members don't have skills with technology but having student posts proofread is important.
- Publishing a post roughly every week or fortnight.
- Replying to all (or most) comments that people write on his blog.
- Being an active part of the 'blogging community' by leaving comments on others' blogs every so often.

Some of these tasks can be performed at school but family support is crucial. You might want to check out the following examples of students who have been very successful with their blogs and got a lot out of the process due to their family support.

Bianca's Blog (2KM Student 2010) <http://biancasblog.global2.vic.edu.au>

Jarrod's Blog (2KM Student) <http://jarrodsblog.global2.vic.edu.au/>

Charlotte's Blog (2KJ Student) <http://charlottesblog.global2.vic.edu.au/>

In setting up the blog, I would go through the following steps with X:

- Choosing a username and password.
- Changing the layout and design of the blog.
- How to write his own posts and insert images etc.
- Brainstorm the kinds of things he could post on his blog.
- How to moderate and approve the comments that people write.
- Deciding what information is okay and not okay to publish on the internet, for example, avoiding writing personal information. The same safety guidelines that will use for our class blog apply to student blogs.

I will provide you and X with access to step-by-step instructions on how to use his blog.

The Global2 blogging platform (which is the same one we use for the 2KM/2KJ blog) is created by the Victorian Education Department. Under your supervision, X will have complete control over his blog and the moderation of the comments he receives.

X will require his own email address to set up the blog and I will organise that for him through our school website.

If you're happy for X to have his own blog we'll get started next week. If you don't want X to have his own blog or don't feel that you'd have time to support him, that's fine too.

Please reply to this email with your decision and let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Kathleen Morris