Computing News

Welcome to our first Computing newsletter!

As Computing Leads, our role is to raise the profile of our digital activities and bring technology to the forefront of the curriculum.

We want all pupils at Handsworth to be excited about the potential of digital technology and their role in pushing that forward.

With this in mind, we have developed a number of initiatives.

Digital Leaders

Our Digital Leaders programme has been running for a number of years. All pupils in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to apply for this role. As Digital Leaders, pupils develop and showcase their technological skills: running workshops for their peers, parents and carers; sharing computing skills with teachers; writing blogs; leading assemblies and filming events throughout the year.

This year, they also have the opportunity to try out new technology, including Blue-Bots, iPads and Tac Tiles; USB microscopes and digital cameras; and BBC Micro:Bit.

Each year, Year 6 Digital Leaders recruit a new cohort from potential candidates in Year 5. They shortlist applications, write questions and conduct interviews before deciding on four new Digital Leaders. We received many excellent applications this year.

Our 2017-2018 Digital Leaders are:

Year 6: Frank Buckley, Edmund De Bono, Faith Fung and Phoeve Woolnough.

Year 5: Ethan Cox, Mia Darvill, Amelie Lewis and Noah Mayfield.

Computing skills

Not only is *Computing* taught as a discreet subject at Handsworth, it is also integrated into many areas of the curriculum, including English, Maths, Science, Art and Topic.

Pupils also have other opportunities to develop their skills in Computer Science, Information Technology and Digital Literacy:

The *Hour of Code* is a termly coding project taught to all pupils by the Digital Leaders.

Computing Clubs are on offer to our Year 4s, 5s and 6s.

- *Year 4 ICT Club* is planned and taught by the Digital Leaders. Activities include making your own e-safety film, using digital technologies to create your own posters and writing a blog.

- *Year 5 Code Club* is run by parent volunteer, Ian Cox, who teaches coding activities.

- *Year 6 Game Maker Club* is taught by PHD student Bruno De Paula, who will work with a group of pupils to create their own computer games.

Handsworth Community

Parents and carers are a valued part of the Handsworth community – and there's training for you too!

Following last year's successful *Breakfast Computing Sessions*, we are once again running these sessions this year.

Run by our Digital Leaders, they aim to show you what your children are learning in Computing lessons at Handsworth.

We aim to run one each term, with the first ones on *Tuesday 5th (KS1) and Wednesday 6th (KS2) December 2017*. We look forward to seeing you there!

London CLC Training

We are offering training to all pupils as part of our partnership with the *London Connected Learning Centre* (CLC):

- *Understanding the World*
  Nursery and Reception classes will use digital technologies to explore, observe, capture and question their physical world.

- *Coding and Animation*
  Years 1 and 2 will use Scratch Jr to create and program their own interactive animations.

- *Maths and Problem Solving*
  Years 3 and 4 will use their higher-order thinking skills to solve a series of mathematical problems in Scratch.

- *Raspberry Pi, Python, Minecraft*
  Year 5 will be computer scientists and design and build Raspberry Pi computers then program them with Python.

- *Kodu Gamathon*
  Year 6 will use the BBC micro:bit to design, build and program their own gaming environment.

London CLC will also run *E-safety training* for parents and carers, pupils and all staff on Safer Internet Day (*Tuesday 6th February 2018*).

Over to you...

Please ensure you keep up to date with what is going on at Handsworth:

- Register on the website so that you can book slots for Parents' Evening.

- Visit your child's class page to see what they are learning.

- Comment on our website updates: your engagement in your child's learning will encourage them to learn and share that learning with you!

If you have any comments or queries about Computing at Handsworth, please contact us via the school office: *school@handsworth.waltham.sch.uk*.

Mrs Giacuzzo and Mrs Glanvill, Co-Computing Leads

Handsworth Primary School