Computing at St. Andrew's
Newsletter

We are very proud of our computing curriculum here at St. Andrew's. Below you will find information about our learning in computing.

Do pupils enjoy computing lessons?

Children at St. Andrew's enjoy computing lessons. They speak positively about the subject and are engaged during lessons. This has been noticed by teachers, our computing coordinator and Ofsted. One child said ***"I learn loads in computing and I get to learn how to program"*** and another said ***"in computing I can be creative and I am given the freedom to do so."*** Pupils know what to do if they find something challenging in computing such as: don't give up, try an alternative method or ask for help if needed. One child described computing as sometimes being ***"trial and error"*** – this is a great start to children's computational thinking skills! We had a visit from a software engineer who ran workshops with children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. This enabled children to see the relevance of computing beyond the classroom.

How is the curriculum organised?

The National Curriculum for primary computing can be divided into three key areas: computer science, information technology and digital literacy. At St. Andrew's we teach these key areas through: computing systems and networks, programming, creating media, data handling and online safety. Each year group covers each of these five areas and complete a wide range of exciting activities. Please see the next page for some examples. Children achieve highly in all areas of the computing curriculum and make excellent progress through school.

How do children stay safe online?

Staying safe online is imperative for children at St. Andrew's, especially as devices and technology become more and more available to children and part of our everyday lives. Children are taught about the importance of staying safe online and how to keep themselves safe whilst using technology. This starts in Nursery and continues all the way up to Year 6. Online safety is taught in an age appropriate way and gives the children opportunities to reflect on the advantages and disadvantages of spending time online. Children are able to talk confidently about how to stay safe online. The UK Safer Internet Centre has some good resources for parents about keeping children safe online and explains current issues. Here is the link: **https://saferinternet.org.uk/**

What devices are available to children at St. Andrew's?

We recently invested in ViewSonic interactive whiteboards, which every classroom now has. These replaced our old projector SMART boards. The ViewSonic boards display vivid apps, images, graphics, videos, websites and more. They allow you to write, draw and annotate instantly. We can see that they are having a positive impact on teaching and learning and children are engaging with them well during lessons. We also invested in brand new laptops for the whole school, which children use well to support their learning in computing and other subjects. Children have access to iPads as and when necessary to support their learning in class.

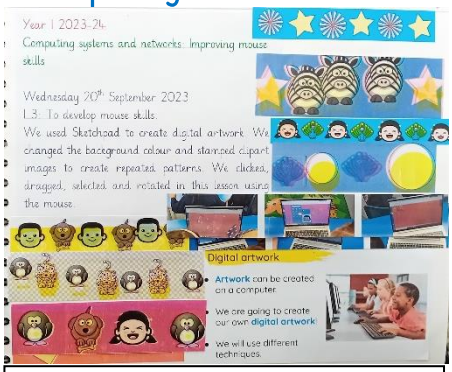
Next steps

As a school, we are currently in the process of looking at how artificial intelligence (AI) can further improve children's learning experiences. Watch this space!

Miss Wallace – Computing Coordinator

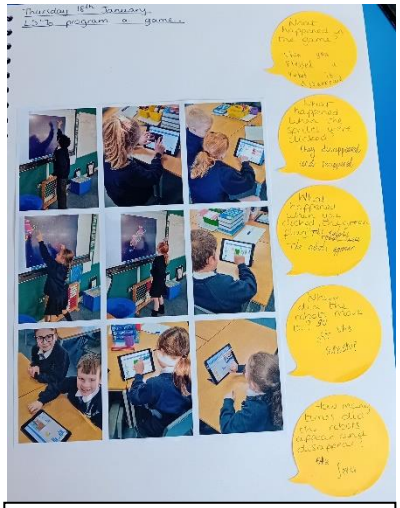
A visit from a STEM ambassador

Examples of work

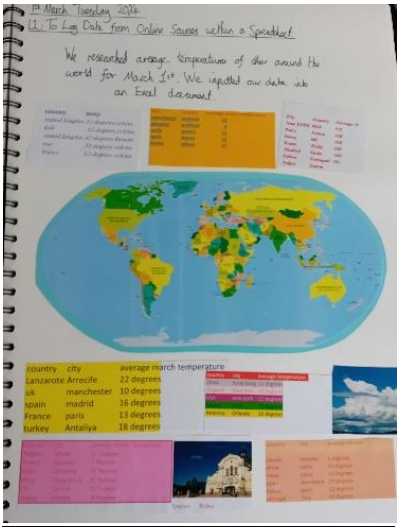


Year 1 – Computer systems and networks
Developing mouse skills by creating digital art work.

Year 2 – Creating media
Creating a stop motion animation.

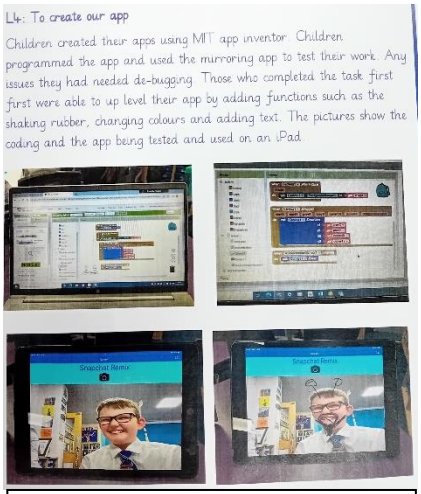


Year 3 – Programming
Programming a game using Scratch.



Year 4 – Data handling
Logging data from online sources.

Year 5 – Online safety
Discussing healthy screen habits.



Year 6 - Programming
Children creating their own apps – designing, coding, de-bugging, testing and evaluating.

Feedback from Ofsted (June 2024):

- All pupils achieve highly in all three areas of the computing curriculum.
- There was good engagement from all pupils in lessons.
- The subject leader had lots of monitoring evidence around pupil knowledge.
- Lessons are presented clearly and teachers have excellent subject knowledge.
- The computing floor books are excellent and showed lots of practical work and computing vocabulary.