Stoke Primary School Computing Long term plan 2023-2024

Curriculum teaching resources (teachcomputing.org)

Year 3

Computing systems and networks – Connecting computers

Learners will develop their understanding of digital devices, with an initial focus on inputs, processes, and outputs. Start by comparing digital and non-digital devices, before introducing them to computer networks that include network infrastructure devices like routers and switches.

Creating media - Stop-frame animation

Learners will use a range of techniques to create a stop-frame animation using tablets. Next, they will apply those skills to create a story-based animation. This unit will conclude with learners adding other types of media to their animation, such as music and text.

Sequencing sounds

This unit explores the concept of sequencing in programming through Scratch. It begins with an introduction to the programming environment, which will be new to most learners. They will be introduced to a selection of motion, sound, and event blocks which they will use to create their own programs, featuring sequences. The final project is to make a representation of a piano. The unit is paced to focus on all aspects of sequences, and make sure that knowledge is built in a structured manner. Learners also apply stages of program design through this unit.

Branching databases

Learners will develop their understanding of what a branching database is and how to create one. They will use yes/no questions to gain an understanding of what attributes are and how to use them to sort groups of objects. Learners will create physical and on-screen branching databases. To conclude the unit, they will create an identification tool using a branching database, which they will test by using it. They will also consider real-world applications for branching databases

Creating media – Desktop publishing

Learners will become familiar with the terms 'text' and 'images' and understand that they can be used to communicate messages. They will use desktop publishing software and consider careful choices of font size, colour and type to edit and improve premade documents. Learners will be introduced to the terms 'templates', 'orientation', and 'placeholders' and begin to understand how these can support them in making their own template for a magazine front cover. They will start to add text and images to create their own pieces of work using desktop publishing software. Learners will look at a range of page layouts thinking carefully about the purpose of these and evaluate how and why desktop publishing is used in the real world.

Programming B - Events and actions in programs

This unit explores the links between events and actions, while consolidating prior learning relating to sequencing. Learners begin by moving a sprite in four directions (up, down, left, and right). They then explore movement within the context of a maze, using design to choose an appropriately sized sprite. This unit also introduces programming extensions, through the use of **Pen** blocks. Learners are given the opportunity to draw lines with sprites and change the size and colour of lines. The unit concludes with learners designing and coding their own maze-tracing program.

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Year 4

Computing systems and networks – The Internet
Learners will apply their knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. They will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet, and will be given opportunities to explore the World Wide Web for themselves in order to learn about who owns content and what they can access, add, and create. Finally, they will evaluate online content to decide how honest, accurate, or reliable it is, and understand the consequences of false information.

Creating media - Audio production
Learners will identify the input device (microphone) and output devices (speaker or headphones) required to work with sound digitally. Learners will discuss the ownership of digital audio and the copyright implications of duplicating the work of others. In order to record audio themselves, learners will use Audacity to produce a podcast, which will include editing their work, adding multiple tracks, and opening and saving the audio files. Finally, learners will evaluate their work and give feedback to their peers.

Programming A – Repetition in shapes
Learners will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. They will use Logo, a text-based programming language.
This unit is the first of the two programming units in Year 4, and looks at repetition and loops within programming

Data and information – Data logging
In this unit, learners will consider how and why data is collected over time. Learners will consider the senses that humans use to experience the environment and how computers can use special input devices called sensors to monitor the environment. Learners will collect data as well as access data captured over long periods of time. They will look at data points, data sets, and logging intervals. Learners will spend time using a computer to review and analyse data. Towards the end of the unit, learners will pose questions and then use data loggers to automatically collect the data needed to answer those questions.

Year 4 – Photo editing
Learners will develop their understanding of how digital images can be changed and edited, and how they can then be resaved and reused. They will consider the impact that editing images can have, and evaluate the effectiveness of their choices. Throughout this unit, there are opportunities to model with photo editing applications or to demonstrate a concept using the included screen recordings. Pedagogically, it is more beneficial to model the concepts and skills to the learners, which allows for easier questioning and understanding. We recommend that you use the screen recordings to see what needs to be modelled, but give a live demonstration within the lesson. However, the videos are provided on the slides if you wish to use them instead.

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Programming B – Repetition in games

Learners will explore the concept of repetition in programming using the Scratch environment. The unit begins with a Scratch activity similar to that carried out in Logo in Programming unit A, where learners can discover similarities between two environments. Learners look at the difference between count-controlled and infinite loops, and use their knowledge to modify existing animations and games using repetition. Their final project is to design and create a game which uses repetition, applying stages of programming design throughout.

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Year 5

Systems and searching
Learners develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. Learners consider small-scale systems as well as large-scale systems. They explain the input, output, and process aspects of a variety of different real-world systems. Learners discover how information is found on the World Wide Web, through learning how search engines work (including how they select and rank results) and what influences searching, and through comparing different search engines.

Video production
Learners will learn how to create short videos by working in pairs or groups. As they progress through this unit, they will be exposed to topic-based language and develop the skills of capturing, editing, and manipulating video. Learners are guided with step-by-step support to take their idea from conception to completion. At the conclusion of the unit, learners have the opportunity to reflect on and assess their progress in creating a video.

Programming A – Selection in physical computing
In this unit, learners will use physical computing to explore the concept of selection in programming through the use of the Crumble programming environment. Learners will be introduced to a microcontroller (Crumble controller) and learn how to connect and program it to control components (including output devices — LEDs and motors). Learners will be introduced to conditions as a means of controlling the flow of actions in a program.

Data and information – Flat-file databases
This unit looks at how a flat-file database can be used to organise data in records. Learners will use tools within a database to order and answer questions about data. They will create graphs and charts from their data to help solve problems. They will also use a real-life database to answer a question and present their work to others.

Vector drawing
In this unit, learners start to create vector drawings. They learn how to use different drawing tools to help them create images. Learners recognise that images in vector drawings are created using shapes and lines, and each individual element in the drawing is called an object. Learners layer their objects and begin grouping and duplicating them to support the creation of more complex pieces of work.

Programming B – Selection in quizzes
Learners will develop their knowledge of 'selection' by revisiting how 'conditions' can be used in programming, and then learning how the 'if… then… else...' structure can be used to select different outcomes depending on whether a condition is 'true' or 'false'. They represent this understanding in algorithms, and then by constructing programs in the Scratch programming environment. They learn how to write programs that ask questions and use selection to control the outcomes based on the answers given. They use this knowledge to design a quiz in response to a given task and implement it as a program. To conclude the unit, learners evaluate their program by identifying how it meets the requirements of the task, the ways they have improved it, and further ways it could be improved.

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Year 6

Communication and collaboration
In this unit learners explore how data is transferred over the internet. Learners initially focus on addressing, before they move on to the makeup and structure of data packets. Learners then look at how the internet facilitates online communication and collaboration; they complete shared projects online and evaluate different methods of communication. Finally, they learn how to communicate responsibly by considering what should and should not be shared on the internet.

Web page creation
Learners will be introduced to creating websites for a chosen purpose. Learners identify what makes a good web page and use this information to design and evaluate their own website using Google Sites. Throughout the process, learners pay specific attention to copyright and fair use of media, the aesthetics of the site, and navigation paths.

Programming A – Variables in games
This unit explores the concept of variables in programming through games in Scratch. First, learners find out what variables are and relate them to real-world examples of values that can be set and changed. Then they use variables to create a simulation of a scoreboard.

Introduction to spreadsheets
This unit introduces the learners to spreadsheets. They will be supported in organising data into columns and rows to create their own data set. Learners will be taught the importance of formatting data to support calculations, while also being introduced to formulas and will begin to understand how they can be used to produce calculated data. Learners will be taught how to apply formulas that include a range of cells, and apply formulas to multiple cells by duplicating them. Learners will use spreadsheets to plan an event and answer questions. Finally, learners will create charts, and evaluate their results in comparison to questions asked.

3D modelling
Learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of using a computer to produce 3D models. Learners will initially familiarise themselves with working in a 3D space, moving, resizing, and duplicating objects. They will then create hollow objects using placeholders and combine multiple objects to create a model of a desk tidy. Finally, learners will examine the benefits of grouping and ungrouping 3D objects, then go on to plan, develop, and evaluate their own 3D model of a building.

Sensing
This unit is the final KS2 programming unit and brings together elements of all the four programming constructs: sequence from Year 3, repetition from Year 4, selection from Year 5, and variables (introduced in Year 6 – 'Programming A'. It offers pupils the opportunity to use all of these constructs in a different, but still familiar environment, while also utilising a physical device — the micro:bit. The unit begins with a simple program for pupils to build in and test within the new programming environment, before transferring it to their micro:bit.