



Preparing for a Digital World: Computing in Reception



Whilst Computing is not a required part of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, at Woodlands, we believe in giving our Reception children a head start. We carefully weave foundational skills into their learning to ensure they are well-prepared for the Key Stage 1 (KS1) Computing curriculum.

Here is how we introduce and build these essential skills:

Coding and Programming

We introduce the core concepts of coding through playful, hands-on activities:

- **Direction language:** In Maths, P.E., and within classroom instructions, children build crucial directional language and problem-solving skills. These concepts are transferable to future coding activities.
- **Early Programming Tools:** Children use Coding Critters and remote-control cars in a fun and engaging way to develop basic sequencing skills and coding. They will then transition to using Bee-Bots and Scratch Junior to build on these skills further in KS1.
- **Digital Tools:** We use CBeebies Wonderblocks— which are short and engaging programs that help prepare the children on the principles and vocabulary of coding.

Exploring Technology

Exposure to a variety of devices helps children become confident and familiar with the technology they will use in KS1 and beyond:

- **Technology in Play:** Children use laptops, phones, and keyboards in role-play to understand how these tools are used in the world around them.
- **Digital Media:** Children use digital cameras to take photos, learning to capture and review digital images.

Digital Citizenship and Online Safety

Developing an understanding of how to stay safe online is an ongoing priority, and we embed this learning from an early age:

- **Focused Lessons:** We follow the Common-Sense media scheme of work, ensuring children take part in a structured online safety lesson each half-term. Each half term there is a different topic. Within these topics children will learn about keeping safe online, media balance, being respectful online and reflecting what they do online. These lessons will be delivered in a range of activities including discussion and a variety of activities.
- **Interactive Sessions:** We encourage proactive safety with a focus on stories, reading an online safety story each half-term.
- **Police Workshops:** To reinforce these messages, we host three dedicated Cyber Sid sessions throughout the year, delivered by Cheshire Police.
- **Digital Communication:** We encourage parents to communicate with us via email, allowing children to understand the quick, easy, and connective power of email as a communication tool.