**After School Computer Programming Club**

To all Year 5 and 6 parents,

Some volunteers from Softwire (a local software development company) have decided to start up an after school computer programming club for the children in Year 6 and hopefully Year 5 if space permits.

It will take place initially in the School ICT Suite on Mondays after school from 3:30pm – 5:30pm and run for the following ten Mondays:

* Mon 16th April – Monday 21st May excluding the bank holiday on 7th May
* Mon 11th June – Mon 9th July (a week before the end of term due to Softwire’s annual conference on 16th July)

The cost will be £40 per child per half term i.e. £80 for all ten weeks. Our time will be donated free of charge and the subscriptions will be primarily used to purchase equipment for the club which will be donated to the school.

The purpose of the club is to give the children an environment where they can work on programming projects with support and help on-hand should they require it.

There will be suggestions for projects and occasional short talks on certain topics but in general most of the time will be spent doing hands-on programming on projects that the children have chosen themselves - in this sense it is more of a club than a lesson and will certainly not be just 2 hours of playing Angry Birds!

We will initially be focusing on projects using <http://scratch.mit.edu> which is a “*…programming language that makes it easy to create your own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art -- and share your creations on the web.*” This can be downloaded free of charge and I would encourage any children thinking of signing up for the club to have spent at least a small amount of time using it beforehand so as to have a basic understanding of what they will be doing at the club (Year 6 pupils have already been using it as part of their ICT lessons so should already have sufficient experience).

For the initial sign-up, priority will be given to Year 6 pupils but if space is available Year 5 pupils will be included and a waiting list set up as necessary.

If you wish to sign up then please do both of the following:

1. Provide your child’s name and school year by either sending an e-mail to [progclub@softwire.com](mailto:progclub@softwire.com) or by text to 07738127238 or return the slip below to the school office.
2. Give cash or a cheque to the school office for £40 payable to “Phil Marsden” or if you would rather make an online bank transfer then send an email to [progclub@softwire.com](mailto:progclub@softwire.com) for details.

I look forward to running the club and will always welcome any suggestions and offers of help. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to drop me an e-mail, give me a call on 07738 127238 or speak to me at drop-off/pick-up.

Regards,

Phil Marsden (Ella and Max’s Dad)

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I wish to sign up \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [child’s name] in Year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

for the After School Programming Club.

[ ] I enclose cash or a cheque for £40  
[ ] I have made a bank transfer of £40 with my child’s name as reference