**After School Computer Programming Club**

To all Year 5 and 6 parents,

Last year some volunteers from Softwire (a local software development company) started an after school computer programming club for the children in Years 5 & 6 and we hope to continue the club this year.

It will take place in the School ICT Suite on **Mondays after school from 3:30pm – 5:00pm** from 17th Sept – 17th Dec excluding the inset / half term days on 8th Oct, 29th Oct & 5th Nov

The cost will be £70 per child per term. Our time is donated free of charge and the subscriptions are primarily used to purchase equipment for the club most of which is 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 those attending will be expected to have a **genuine interest in computers** and be **enthusiastic about learning to program**.

For those new to the club, 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 and games.*” 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.

Other projects we intend to get the children involved in include programming **Lego Mindstorm Robots,** learning the **Python language and using Raspberry Pi** computers.

There are limited numbers and so places will be given on a first come, first served basis and a waiting list set up as necessary.

Please note that we occasionally would like to take some photos of ICT club for our web site. Please can you let me know if you would prefer us not to use photos of your child. Note that no names will be used and the school will be referred to as just "a local primary school"

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

1. Provide your **child’s name and school year** by sending an e-mail to [phil@softwire.com](mailto:phil@softwire.com) or texting me on 07738 127 238.
2. Give cash or a cheque to the school office for £72 payable to “Phil Marsden” or if you would rather make an online bank transfer then send an email to [phil@softwire.com](mailto:phil@softwire.com) for details.

I look forward to continue running the club and always welcome any comments, suggestions or offers of help. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to drop me an e-mail, give me a call on   
07738 127 238 or speak to me at drop-off/pick-up.

Regards,

Phil Marsden  
(Max in Year 5’s Dad)