Executive Headteacher	Matt Rawling
Head of School	Jackie Chambers
Deputy Headteacher	John Page
Chair of Federation	Wayne Wills

Monday 8th January 2024.

Dear Year Three Families,

As part of our Computing Curriculum, Year 3 will be learning to program a computer using an online software called Scratch, which they will access online at http://scratch.mit.edu. Programming is an important part of learning about technology, and also develops children's thinking and problem-solving skills. Scratch is used by thousands of schools and other educational organisations all around the world to support students in learning coding. Scratch online is also linked to the Computing Curriculum that we use to scaffold our planning at Repton Manor.

To enable pupils to get the most of this learning experience, we will be setting children up with their own individual accounts. By children having their own accounts they will be able to save their projects enabling them to work on them over more than one lesson. Teachers will be able to share projects that come from teachcomputing.com (A Computing curriculum created by the National Centre of Computing Excellence) and those created by their class teacher. This will provide opportunities for pupils to explore ready-made programs as well as edit and improve the projects. The learning blocks from Scratch are built upon as they progress up through the school including into combining their programming with physical computing such as using *Crumble kits* and *Micro: bits.*

As with all use of online technology there are associated risks and measures have been put in place to minimise these. Please see below how we are keeping your child safe whilst using Scratch:

- A teacher Scratch account has been set up which enables us to monitor all school accounts.

- Your child's Scratch account will be set up a username and password that contains no personal or other information that would allow them to be identified individually. The pupil accounts will only be available for use during lesson times only. They will be locked outside of these times and therefore your child will not be able to access their school account at home. As we will not be posting projects (see below), your child will not be leaving a publically visible footprint.

- Scratch Online has many areas – at school children will only be using the 'Create' section of the website. This will be monitored by the adults in the room.

- Scratch Online enables you to post your projects for others to comment on it. Whilst having feedback from others can be beneficial, we cannot control this feedback so we will not be allowing any child to post their projects publically. We will continue to share our projects by children physically switching computers to test out a friend's project.

- The Scratch Team includes a group of moderators who work each day to manage activity on the site and respond to any reports of misuse. To keep pupil's safe from exposure to content that might be unsuitable for their age, we will not be allowing children to view other projects posted within Scratch.

- Prior to starting the unit, there will be an online safety assembly on using Scratch and the rules that we have put in place at Repton Manor. We will also remind ourselves how to keep safe online. Online safety and the rules for using Scratch will be recapped at the start of each lesson.

- Children will not be allowed to use their personal Scratch accounts from home in school.

We appreciate there are a lot of things to consider when using online technologies like Scratch, but there are so many benefits to the children's learning by using this program. We are also aware that several children within the school already have their own personal Scratch accounts at home; we hope that the use of Scratch in school will only strengthen their ability to keep themselves safe online. Scratch also has a page for parents which may be of interest to you http://scratch.mit.edu/parents. We are excited to be embarking on this next stage of our Computing curriculum taking our programming education to the next level.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Donna Fisher   **Hannah Ferris**
Computing Lead   Safeguarding and Pastoral Director