



Dear parents/carers,

My name is Mr Fox; I teach primarily at Drake but will be working as Computing Lead across both schools.

We run Python Code Clubs at Drake and I would like to bring these to Wicklewood, too. I am passionate about programming and introducing written languages into primary settings as an extension of the block coding that classes access via programs like 2Code and Scratch. While programming is a fun thing to learn in and of itself, it is also an increasingly valued skill in today's workplace, helping us to develop useful thinking skills like abstraction and decomposition.

When we talk about 'programming' or 'coding', we mean a precise set of instructions that a computer is able to follow. Using these instructions, or programming languages, we can build apps, games, websites, operating systems and more or less anything that runs on a computer.

We will be learning the basics of Python, a very versatile programming language. It is often used for data analysis and AI, but really any of the above programs can be written in Python. The good thing about Python is its simple syntax. If I wanted to output the line 'Hello World!', look at how much code needs to be written for Python vs a language like Java:

<pre>2 # Printing in Python 3 4 print("Hello World!") 5</pre>	<pre>6 # Printing in Java 7 8 public class Person { 9     public static void main (String[] args) { 10         System.out.println("Hello World!"); 11     } 12 }</pre>
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In previous clubs I have run, children have written chatbots, made text adventure games and even sent code to the International Space Station. Feel free to have a look at some of their code here: <https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.secure-primariesite.net/code-club/>

We will be using the website trinket.io to write and run our code. This is a browser-based programming environment that means we do not have to install Python on all of the school machines; we can simply simulate it running. Children will be using their Google accounts to log straight in, but no personal information is tied to this account, keeping them safe. Children are also unable to access the code of anybody else. Anyone under the age of 13 still requires parental consent to use the site.

I will be offering 15 places to Years 4, 5 and 6 to start with, and the sessions will take place on Mondays after school. No prior knowledge is required, but an interest in technology and block coding would be useful. Sessions will run up until Easter.

Please let the office know if your child is interested in participating and places will be given on a 'first come, first served' basis. By doing this, you are also agreeing to a Trinket account being made for your child.

Please do let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,  
Mr Fox