



Computing Newsletter

TERM 1 • SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2026

Creating, exploring and staying safe in our digital world



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Computing newsletter! This term, our focus is on understanding artificial intelligence (AI), encouraging girls in Computing and helping families stay safe online. Guided by our Catholic values, we want children to use technology with curiosity, kindness and respect for others.

Our focus this term Understanding AI

AI is increasingly part of everyday life, from voice assistants and translation tools to apps that generate pictures or answer questions. Our focus is on helping children understand its possibilities, recognise its limitations and make responsible choices.

Think critically. AI can give incorrect or misleading answers. Check information against reliable sources and keep developing your own ideas.

Protect privacy. Do not enter personal details, passwords, photographs or information about other people into AI tools.

Be kind and ask for help. Never use AI to hurt or impersonate others. Chatbots are computer systems; trusted adults should be children's first source of help with personal worries.

Try this at home. Ask: "Where do we encounter AI, and how could we check whether its answer is true?" Check age requirements and supervise any permitted exploration together.

Girls belong in Computing

We want every child to see themselves as a technology creator. This term, we are placing a particular emphasis on encouraging girls to explore Computing, share their ideas and build confidence.

Coming in Term 4. A dedicated club to encourage girls in Computing will take place in Term 4. Further details about eligible year groups, timings and joining arrangements will follow.

At home, celebrate persistence and problem-solving, encourage girls to take the lead with technology and discover inspiring women in Computing, such as Ada Lovelace.

Parent tips for social media and internet use

Talk little and often. Ask what your child enjoys online, who they interact with and whether anything has made them uncomfortable. Reassure them that they can ask for help without being blamed.

Check age requirements. Social media, games and AI tools have different rules. Check current requirements before allowing access and avoid using a false date of birth.

Review settings together. Check privacy, location sharing, messaging, spending controls and who can contact your child. Set parental controls on devices and broadband alongside ongoing supervision and conversation.

Agree a family routine. Make time for sleep, reading, outdoor play and conversation. Consider charging devices outside bedrooms overnight.

Practise asking for help. If something feels wrong, children should stop interacting and tell a trusted adult. Show them how to block and report unwanted contact.

Cybercrime prevention Important updates

Think before sharing photographs. In July 2026, the National Crime Agency and Internet Watch Foundation issued guidance about criminals misusing public photographs of children to create harmful AI-generated images. Review older posts, check who can see photographs and discuss sharing permissions with relatives, schools and clubs. Consider sharing only with a carefully selected private group.

Secure your accounts. Use a different strong password for each account, especially email. Three unrelated words can help make a memorable password. Turn on two-step verification and keep devices and apps updated. Never share passwords or verification codes.

Pause before clicking. Treat unexpected payment requests, prizes and urgent messages cautiously. Verify requests through a contact method you already trust.

Know where to report

Suspicious emails Forward to report@phishing.gov.uk.

Suspicious texts Forward to 7726.

Lost money or experienced fraud Contact your bank immediately if money has been lost. Report Fraud has replaced Action Fraud: visit reportfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Online sexual abuse or grooming Visit ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre. Please also tell the school about online concerns affecting your child's safety or wellbeing.

Our family challenge

Create a family digital agreement. Decide when devices can be used, what information stays private, how you will treat others online and which trusted adults children can approach for help.

Be curious. Think carefully. Be kind. Ask for help.

Parent support: ceopeducation.co.uk/parents • internetmatters.org • ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware

Safety advice checked October 2026: NSPCC AI guidance; NCA image-sharing guidance (3 July 2026); ICO privacy and parental controls; NCSC and Report Fraud.