

## Digital literacy initiative

In line with last year's changes to the national curriculum, St Mark's CE Primary has been introducing children to the basic principles of computer programming and digital literacy. We recently took delivery of a batch of Codebug devices from [Farnell element14](#) - a global technology and electronics distributor - in order to further support the children's learning.



The Codebug is a hand held nano dev board that is designed specifically to help young people to learn how computers and electronic technology can be programmed to perform a wide variety of functions in the modern world. The devices feature a 25 LED matrix on the stomach and six touch sensitive rings along the sides, through which the Codebug can interact with a number of external objects.

Though small in size, the Codebug can fulfil many of the same tasks as a working computer. The children can log into an online web platform, where they can get to grips with key coding languages and commands by writing their own programs using a simple drag and drop function. Projects the children can work on include designing an interactive greetings card, building a working clock and creating simple animations.



Our aspiring Digital Leaders have already discovered how much fun these little bugs are, following a basic LED display challenge as part of the interview process and will be continuing to trial them for us in the coming weeks.

We will be using them at Code Club starting next term and look forward to incorporating the Codebug device into our classroom computing initiatives over the coming months.

A leading supplier of electronic components and hardware, including electrical enclosures, network cables and integrated circuit boards, Farnell element14 supports a wide range of educational initiatives, including a forthcoming partnership with the BBC to provide one million secondary school students with micro:bit development kits to aid their studies.

