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29th June 2021

Dear Parents,

We have had the exciting opportunity for next year's Year 5 class to be part of a computing project from the Raspberry Pi Foundation, beginning in September 2021.

The Belonging project is one of five projects being delivered by the Gender Balance in Computing programme, funded by the Department for Education. They are exploring ways of tackling girls' sense of belonging in computing, to increase their interest and engagement in the subject. Girls' sense of belonging in STEM subjects can be lower than boys' and this can be a barrier to participation.

The project group Great Waldingfield have been allocated is to test the impact of CodeStars, a set of new evidence-based resources which have been created to increase pupil's sense of belonging in computing.

As part of our participation, we will be required to collect and share data for the project and CodeStars would also like to have parents involved too via text message. Further information on this can be found on the attached information sheet. You must return the information sheet to the school by the 16th July if you DO NOT wish your child to be part of the project. Parents/carers who do not reply will automatically be included in the project and will be contacted between September and December 2021 to communicate new information and tips related to computing.

If you do not want your child to take part in the project, your child will still participate in the lessons with their classmates, however CodeStars will not send text messages to parents/carers and the school will not send any data or information about them.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to take part in a national project for the Raspberry Pi Foundation and to have the opportunity to try out some brand-new resources, as well as increase their interest in a subject which is fast becoming a future career essential.

Kind regards

Miss V. Butcher

