Information for parents

Welcome! A couple of notes below that you will find helpful.
Please read them.

Get settled

- Help your kid to find a place on the tables in the cafeteria [Scratch, Python, Raspberry Pi and Robotics] or in the classroom around the corner (HTML, App Inventor].
- Then take a seat on the balcony.
- Do not sit with your child – that will stop the kids working with each other.

Break time

There's a break for kids at 3.30 and a tuck shop will offer
goodie bags for €1. The kids enjoy this! There will be coffee and biscuits for you, if we have enough people to help out. Volunteers welcome, every week.

Mentoring

The adults that you see moving around and helping the kids to code are 'mentors'. Mentoring does not involve sitting at your kid's table. Mostly it involves helping other kids and finding ways to help us run the Dojo. Ask any of the mentors if you can help in any way or if you'd like to mentor.

Child protection

We have been doing this since 2012 and have a child protection policy that we follow. That's one of the reasons you need to stay at the Dojo if your kid is 12 or under. Mentors are subject to Garda vetting.

Your kid's progress

It's not school; it's more like a coding club. However, your kid will learn about technologies and problem solving here that are generally not taught in the Irish school system.

Ask any mentor how your kid is getting along. We like them to **start with Scratch or HTML** and after 6-12 sessions, they can **move onto another steam, like Python, Raspberry Pi, Robotics or App Inventor**.

Mostly, they follow written instructions and we help them to complete small projects and solve problems. If they are interested, they will like it and make good progress. Try to get them doing a little at home between sessions as well.

We sometimes take the kids on a tour of the other groups, or showcase projects on the big screen. Scratch kids are encouraged to **upload their games on the internet**, safely. That way, they can send links to their friends and relations and anyone in the world can play their games.

Learn a bit yourself?

You're welcome to bring along your own laptop and set up in the Staff Room, where you can learn a bit about coding yourself.