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Focus on... AI and digital learning

This issue focuses on the use of artificial intelligence and computing in supporting primary science. It has been a fascinating issue to edit and I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who submitted an article for this theme; the range and depth of writing was truly remarkable.

We start off with a piece by Sam Lovatt and Alex Sinclair as they delve into the detail of the effectiveness of using *ChatGPT* to help plan and resource lessons in primary science. Their insight and advice here will undoubtedly be useful as AI continues to come more to the fore in modern teaching. Following on from this Dan Breeze takes us on a journey into how the BBC micro:bit can equip young scientists with essential data-collection skills.

With all of this in mind, our next three articles tour the intricacies of bringing engaging ideas for digital-based peripheries into play in our lessons. Malcolm Kazimi reports on his team's experience of introducing computer science, in the form of programming robots, into class 4a. In contrast. to this futuristic approach, Andrew Chandler-Grevatt looks deeper into how microscopes – including a digital version – can help unlock the miniature biomes beneath our feet. On a bigger global scale, Robert Collins and Jane Essex will definitely 'float your boat' in advising how your class might get involved in world-wide digital tracking linked to Arctic climate change.

Digital game-based learning is also used by Laura Hobbs and her colleagues, as they examine how primary children can engage with civil engineering, the environment and science through the popular medium of Minecraft.

Our international article this time around heralds from Germany and Namibia, and takes us back to a more traditional approach to games, as Annika Hoffman, Kaezuko Kamakuere and Tim Hartelt present and evaluate a fun and easily resourced game to teach about plastics pollution and reduction.

On a final personal note, this will be my final signing off as Editor of *Primary Science*. I have enjoyed every single minute and have had the privilege to work with, and to read the fantastic work of, so many excellent colleagues. Many thanks to you, the readership of ASE *Primary Science*.

I hope you enjoy Issue 185!

Robert Coillins