



Friday 23rd January

Dear Parents and Carers,

Online Safety / Online Behaviour - KS2 pupils

Online safety is taught every half term in school through our Computing and PSHE curriculums; the whole school will be taking part in Safer Internet Day on February 10th. However, children can still make mistakes, causing upset to others and putting themselves in positions where they are vulnerable to harm. We do not want children to be frightened of the online environment, but knowledgeable and responsible in their approach to their own and other's online safety.

The legal age at which children in the UK are allowed to use social media platforms and messaging services such as Facebook, Tik-tok, Snapchat and Whatsapp is 13 years old. If you have decided to allow your child to use social media, the following information is useful in helping your children enjoy positive and safe internet use.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Clear and well organised information on all aspects of protecting and educating your child with their internet use.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Further advice and some good case studies to consider.

Simple steps you can take immediately:

- Ensure children use devices at home in a room where you can monitor what they are doing.
- Buy or download parental control software, keeping it switched on and updated.
- Set time limits for using the internet and games consoles.
- Regularly monitor the interactions your child is having with others. Is the content appropriate? Do you know the people your child is talking to? Is your child in a 'safe space' when using the platform?
- Check out age ratings on games, online TV, films and apps.
- Agree a list of websites your child is allowed to visit.
- Ensure your child is aware of the kind of personal information they should not reveal about themselves online e.g. name of school or their home address.
- Ensure older children know what they should or should not be showing younger brothers or sisters.
- Don't be pressured into allowing your child to do things that you don't think they are old enough or mature enough to do.
- Ensure family members and their friend's parents are aware of your online safety rules and they adhere to them when they are looking after your child. Agree rules with other parents!

Please take a moment with your child over the weekend and make sure they know how to keep themselves safe online. Please check their device and review what they have been doing. We all know the harm that can come to young people through social media if they are not protected, supported and educated to use it safely.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Rob Cole

(Headteacher)