E-Safety Parent Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019

'Helping you to keep your child safe online'.

The Autumn term is key for sharing and reminding children of our rules for E-Safety. All teachers have shared these rules and discussed our E-Safety promise with the children, but we feel that these rules can also be applied at home. Please read through and discuss them with your child at home.

E-Safety Rules.

The internet is useful but can also be dangerous. To make sure you are safe when using the internet follow these rules:

- Look after ICT equipment in school and only use school equipment in school.
- Only log on as you and never tell anyone your password.
- Ask an adult before accessing the internet.
- If you access a site and you don't like what you see, tell a responsible adult.
- Never put hurtful or rude comments online. Remember once it's online, everyone can see it.
- Make sure you don't put in any details about yourself on an internet site, such as your name and address. If someone on the internet asks for it – tell a responsible adult. Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are.

E-Safety Promise.

- I will look after the computer equipment.
- I will only log on as myself.
- I will listen carefully to all the adults and follow their instructions.
- I will only use the internet when an adult says I can.
- If I see something I don't like I will press 'X' or I will tell an adult.
- I will not give away any information about myself on the computer.

We are nearly at the end of term and I hope you are looking forward to your Christmas break. Technology can be a great and exciting gift for young people at Christmas. Games consoles, tablets and mobile phones are often at the top of a child's letter to Santa. Encouraging safe and appropriate behaviour whilst using the device should be considered as part of the gift, making sure children are safe while they live, learn and play is key. Take control and be sure you know the parental controls of products and consider the impact of allowing 'free reign'. If you are buying new technology, don't forget to set the parental controls up before you give the new device to your child. If you are unsure of how to do this go to your search engine and type the name of your child's device/games console (eg. PlayStation, Nintendo, or Xbox + 'parental controls'). Showing interest in what your child is doing online is the best way to support them. Put in place some boundaries: implementing age restrictions, inappropriate content filters, screen time restrictions and the inability for children to make purchases. There are options with some services to create 'child' accounts which link to a 'parent' account, which helps to manage profiles for young people. The majority of devices have their own parental controls already inbuilt which just need activating through the device's settings. Home Broadband services can have filtering applied to it by your supplier, but be aware this only works for devices that actually connect to your home network. Additionally, look at parental control settings on your TV.

As part of our Computing curriculum E-Safety is taught throughout the year, alongside different topics. E-Safety is a term which means not only the internet but other ways in which young people communicate using electronic media, e.g. mobile phones. It means ensuring that children are protected from harm and supported to achieve the maximum benefit from new and developing technologies, without risk to themselves or others. The internet has now become an unavoidable part of everyday life and one that is also part of family life too. It would be a missed opportunity for children not to actively engage and develop skills through these digital activities, and research shows that ultimately digital-savvy kids are far safer online. Talk to your children about what they do online in the same way that you would ask them about their day at school. It is very important that your child uses the net in a positive and creative way.

During this festive period can I also ask you to be mindful of toys, films, games, etc and their targeted age. These age restrictions are in place for a reason and the content is not appropriate for children younger than the age stated.

Useful links:

https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/christmas-is-coming-so-take-control/

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/advice-giving-technology-gifts-christmas

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/

If you have any concerns regarding E-Safety please don't hesitate to contact us:

Mrs Jotty Wagner - E-Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Lyndsey Carter – Designated Safeguarding Lead