

Wednesday, 01 February 2017

Dear Mr and Mrs..

Safer Internet Day 2017 - Tuesday 7th February: 'Be the change: unite for a better internet'.

As you may be aware. International Safer Internet Day is on February 7th. As in previous years, we will be trying to tackle the growing issue of online safety in 3Rs, House time and assemblies.

Like many schools, we are recognising that despite our best efforts the message isn't getting through to the pupils and they are not making safe and healthy choices regarding the use of the internet and social media. One strategy that is used widely is showing video re-enactments and case studies, although it is only one part of our approach, we do believe it can have significant impact.

******Parents of pupils in Years 9 – 11 PLEASE READ******

A new video has been released by Leicestershire Police that has been well received and feedback from the young people involved has suggested it is very effective. It focuses on the process of online grooming and the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). We are therefore planning to use it during the week beginning the 6th of February for all pupils in Years 9 - 11.

The video has been shown to pupils from 11 years of age upwards but I need to make you aware that the Film, if classified for cinema viewing, would be 15. I would therefore ask you to watch the video (link below) if you have any concerns regarding your child watching it. If after watching it you would rather they miss watching the video, please contact reception before Monday 6th.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsbYHI-rZOE>

I would suggest **that all** parents view this video as it will hopefully raise awareness of the risks that children are exposed to as they explore the world of social media.

We will be using a range of other age appropriate materials for the remaining year groups. However, like all schools we are realising that we cannot tackle the challenges of keeping children safe online by ourselves. We are recognising that the risks, pressures and technologies are changing so fast that it is almost impossible for both schools and parents to keep up with what the children are exposed to and dealing with. Therefore I would ask all parents/carers to take some time to watch / read some of the resources I have included below. Some of it is quite hard hitting and I would suggest you watch first and then watch/discuss with your child at an appropriate level. I have given a brief summary of each.

Safer Internet day website – wide range of resources for children, schools and parents.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2017>

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Think You Know website - gives a wide range of resources for children, schools and parents which are age related. Created with the National Crime Agency and CEOP where you are able to report concerns.

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

Video: The Dangers of Social Media - Girl Edition – hard hitting American documentary.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jMhMVEjEQg>

Video: The Dangers of Social Media - Boys Edition – hard hitting American documentary.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4sHoDW8QU4>

NSPCC website – range of guidance regarding protecting young people online and beyond. The net aware section on “How safe are the sites, apps and games your child uses?” is particularly useful.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>

As you can see, there are a huge range of resources and information out there and I would respectively ask you to take the time to access a few. The use of mobile technologies and the internet mean that young people today face risks that we as adults struggle to keep up with and understand, it is vital that we have the tools and knowledge to help keep our children safe.

I appreciate this is a lot of information to consider and I would politely suggest that as a minimum you take the time to watch either of the videos on the **Danger of Social Media** and explore the **Think You Know** website. I would also ask that you spend some time over the holiday period to discuss the use of the internet with your children and consider what precautions you are taking as a family.

In order for us to be able to assess how effective these types of letters and resources are, could I ask you to complete the brief survey below that can be accessed by following the link. The greater number of responses, the clearer picture we will have of the impact.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LQW7GCN>

We will be organising a parents information evening after the holidays and I will be writing to you again to invite you to attend. We are hoping that many of you will be able to attend.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Bloodworth
Assistant Head teacher

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