

Dear Parents,

### **Online Safety Update.**

Online Safety, when our children are exposed to the internet from an early age is an important safety measure for us all. It is, therefore, important to inform you what the school is doing to keep your child safe online and also to provide you with some support to help you keep your child safe at home.

#### **In school.**

As an educational establishment our internet is provided by the South West Grid for learning, this means it has a heavy filter applied at source. The filter does not allow anyone in school, staff included, to access any social media sites, you tube and certain websites as determined by South West Grid unless we use a password. We use the password to bypass the filter temporarily to enable teachers, for example, to access You Tube to show an educational video. This is instantly reset after the showing to restore the high level filter. This service also proactively monitors internet usage for any attempts to access illegal content and automatically informs the police and Local Authority of any instances.

Children have supervised access to the internet in class by using either a laptop or an ipad. Attached to these devices is the Schools 'Acceptable Use Policy for Pupils' which all children read and agree to. Teachers explain the importance of abiding by these rules in order that children keep themselves safe online. Children also know what to do if they see something on a device which they think isn't right or which they don't like. Staff also sign an Acceptable Use Policy, both of which are available on our website. If there is an instance in school where access is gained to something illegal or that may place a person at risk it is reported to South West Grid to enable better filtering, and if appropriate the Local Area Designated Officer at the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. Regular checks are made to ensure that filtering methods are appropriate, effective and reasonable.

#### **At home.**

Keeping children safe on the internet at home can be tricky as it can be hard to monitor exactly what children are doing online, especially as they get older. But it's at these times when it is especially crucial to be as vigilant as you can. I have included some really good websites below which can help you look at the security features of some popular websites as well as learn about some general internet safety. Some of these might need you to Ctrl+click, most of these are also on our website on the Parents page. There is also further information in the Lobby area of the school.

1. Are you unsure if an app, game or film is suitable for your child? Common Sense Media is a fantastic site where you can find reviews of all apps, games and films. The site also has lots of useful advice about setting boundaries for the use of electronic devices. <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>
2. Parental guides to: Cybersecurity, Cyberbullying, Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook  
<https://www.connectsafely.org/parentguides/>
3. For up to date information about parental controls, staying safe while gaming and for links to other current e-safety topics. This site also links to *Digiducks BIG Decision* ebook used in KS1 to deliver the e-safety message.  
<http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>
4. A NSPCC sponsored site providing guides to the social network and games sites children are using today. The site includes guides to privacy settings and reporting abuse on sites such as; Minecraft, Miniclip, Club Penguin, Instagram and WhatsApp  
<http://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/?order=title>
5. A comprehensive NSPCC website with many helpful links: [Online abuse | NSPCC](#)

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