Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Online Safety

Online safety is an integral part of children's education in today's digital world and is embedded in their learning at school. As a school, we want to help our parents and children improve their own understanding of e-safety issues so they can learn to use the internet and all digital media in a safe and secure way.

As a parent, I am sure you will know how important the internet is to children - they use it to learn, play, socialise and express themselves. It's a highly creative place of amazing opportunities. However, sometimes the technology children use every day can seem a bit daunting and you might worry about the risks your child can face online - such as bullying, contact from strangers or the possibility of them seeing illegal or inappropriate content. In addition to this, you might be unsure about certain websites, apps or games that your child accesses on a regular basis.

As we break up for the summer holiday, to try and help parents with the fast moving and changing world of the internet and social media, we've suggested a few fantastic resources that contain information on different types of social media and how to help keep children safe. These helpful resources can be found on our website under the 'Keeping Safe' menu on the homepage. Here, you can find: useful safeguarding websites that promote online safety; an 'Online Safety' menu dedicated for safeguarding children online; and online guides for parents - this includes PEGI ratings, Playstation and Xbox advice and regulations.

Another effective strategy for parents to safeguard your child online is to engage with your child regarding their use of the internet while at home. Here are some conversation starter ideas from www.childnet.com - which is a registered UK charity that aims to make the internet a safe place for children and young people:
● Ask your child to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
● Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
● Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.
● Encourage them to help. Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
● Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online.

I hope you find the resources on our website helpful. As ever, if you have any questions regarding online safety at our school, please feel free to contact me.

I hope you and your family have a restful summer. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr Healy

Deputy Headteacher