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Infant School

28th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Online safety at home

With the majority of young people now learning from home, they will be spending more time online doing their school work, playing games or socialising. Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However, it's important we all consider how we can help keep young people safer online during this lockdown, and always. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer:

Online gaming

Online games are social activities, and most have features that allow young people to chat with others whilst they play. For information about the positives of gaming, the risks of 'in-game chat' and measures you can take to help protect your child, watch this short video called 'In-game chat: a guide for parents and carer'. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-ij1jm9K8&t=2s>

More information

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP). Their aim is to protect children and young people from abuse online.

For more information, advice and guidance, visit their parents' website (<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents>) and download their home activity worksheets from their website for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.

Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online:

Have an ongoing conversation: Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, read the article 'Having a conversation with your child' available at

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/having-a-conversation-with-your-child/>

Make sure they know where to go for support: Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. Remind them that they won't be in trouble at that you are there to help. For a breakdown of report services, visit:

<https://parentinfo.org/article/supporting-your-child-with-reporting-unwanted-content-online>

Make sure they know about NCA CEOP: Young people can report a concern about grooming or sexual abuse to NCA CEOP at <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> and get support from a specialist Child Protection Advisor.

If you would like further support and advice regarding online safety, please contact Mrs Harrison/ Mrs Rowland, our Designated Safeguarding Leads, or Miss Shaw, our Computing Lead.

Many thanks,
Miss Shaw