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Wednesday 2nd February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, Tuesday 8th February 2022 is Safer Internet Day in the UK, so I would like to take this opportunity to share with Parents and Carers what we will be discussing with all pupils as part of our PSHE programme in the two weeks commencing Monday 7th February. As a school, we recognise the benefits of young people having access to technology, so our main message to pupils will be about keeping safe and making positive choices.

The theme for Safer Internet Day this year is 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. Alongside social media and different Apps, gaming is a popular way of young people socialising and communicating with each other. Therefore during the designated PSHE time we will be a focusing on:

- Supporting young people to understand what constitutes respectful online behaviour and the repercussions of sending/sharing malicious communications,
- How young people can keep themselves safe online, when using gaming devices, Ipad's and different Apps,
- Advising young people what to do if they encounter hate or bullying directed at themselves or others online, or whilst using a gaming device.

In accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) guidance, we will also be raising awareness of online scams including identity fraud. This will involve identifying what signs young people should look out for and the do's and don'ts of sharing personal information online.

We have recently been sent a guidance sheet from Suffolk Constabulary for Parents/Carers which is attached to this email. The advice sheet explains the risks involved with young people speaking to strangers online, in particular it focuses on online grooming, what it is and the signs to look out for. Please take a moment to read over this document.

Please can I ask that you support the school in delivering these important messages by speaking to your child at home about these safeguarding issues.

If you would like any more information on online safety, please contact the Safeguarding team or alternatively up to date information and workshops can be found on the following websites:



www.saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers - Parents and Carers guides to different types of technology and advice on how to start a conversation about online safety.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com/guides - Easy to access guides on a number of websites and apps, information on age restrictions and what young people can do/access within an app or on a website.

www.saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/online-bullying - Advice and guidance about supporting young people who have experienced bullying online.

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/ - The NSPCC are offering free webinars for groups of parents and carers to give advice about how to keep your family safe online. A place on a webinar can be booked by clicking on the link above.

<https://parents.ygam.org/about-ygam-parent-hub/> - Children are growing up in a digital world and are able to navigate the internet with ease. Explore online gaming, microtransactions and the links to gambling activities, and find out how to identify gaming and gambling related harm. This website includes support materials to establish healthy balances and set boundaries for your family. There is a free workshop for parents on Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 7pm, which focuses on:

- Introduction to gaming, including microtransactions
- Introduction to gambling and the impact of advertising
- Recognising gaming and gambling harms.
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If you are interested in this workshop click on the link above for Young Gamers and Gamblers Education Trust and select workshops at the top of the page.

Lastly, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support and information sharing in regards to any online safety concerns or worries that you have.

Kind Regards,



Miss Hankers
Safeguarding Manager / Online Safety Lead.