

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

As we are sure you are aware, this week is national 'Safer Internet Week' and all children throughout the school have had lessons and assemblies about staying safe online and looking after their personal information. And today, the government has issued new guidelines on internet and mobile phone use for children under the age of 16.

During discussions this week, it has been brought to our attention that there have been a few comments made, pictures shared and posts put, on a Year 6 'What's App' group. These have caused some upset, so we felt it would be a good time to remind everyone of the following useful points:

- Please make your children aware that you will be monitoring their phone use; they shouldn't be typing, saying or posting anything online that they wouldn't be prepared to show or say out loud to you!
- If you haven't done so, consider putting together an agreed set of rules/agreements/good practice, etc. where your children are encouraged to only use their devices in a shared area (e.g. living room.) Please also put time limits on usage and ensure that the device is turned off before bed and removed from their bedroom.
- Please remind your children that images of other people, must not be shared without the express permission of the person in the photograph.
- Talk to your children about how to keep their personal data secure and also about who they are sharing this data with.
- Please have a discussion with your child about the use of 'social media'. **Did you know that the required age limit for the use of 'What's App' is 16? Instagram is 13, Snapchat is 13, Musicl.ly is 13 and TikTok is also 13.** Many of these websites have inappropriate or explicit content/comments which not suitable for children.
- Please ask your children to continue to ask for help from you and school adults if they find themselves in a situation where they are unhappy or uncomfortable due to a problem on social media.

A further issue that has come to light is the use of Facetime calls to stream content from TV providers such as Netflix. Please be aware that your parental controls may not match those of other parents, so if your child is on a Facetime call in a private room, they could be accessing content, via a friend, that you may not want them to see. If you have not already, please also consider using an age restrictive pin number to access content on TV streaming.

Please come and speak to a member of staff if you have any questions or concerns, or please take a look at some of these useful websites for further information:

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) – the 'Safer Internet' website.

[www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org) – a great website that gives you lots of information about different apps and websites.

[www.intenetmatters.org](http://www.intenetmatters.org) – run in partnership with many Internet service providers such as BT, Sky and Virgin Media.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs. Smart

Mr. Kelleher