

E-Safety Newsletter

May 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

Here at Wheatlands Primary we strive to make sure that everyone feels safe in school at all times. Staying safe when you are using the computer and on the internet, whether at home or at school, is very important too. We continually remind the children of the rules needed to help them keep safe online as part of our curriculum. This was reinforced, back in February, when we took part in 'Safer Internet Day 2019'. During the day each year group spent some time carrying out activities dedicated to promoting safe, responsible and positive use of the digital technology that they encounter in their everyday lives. The day was a huge success and the children produced some lovely work that demonstrated their understanding in this area. However, it is vitally important that children are continually reminded about how to stay safe online, both at home, and in school. The links below provides a useful guide for parents to help children navigate the online world safely and provide a list of questions that will help you start a conversation with your child about online safety.

www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/DigitalJourneyA3_v2.pdf

www.nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/seven-questions-to-ask-your-child/

The internet can be a wonderful tool for children. They can use it to research school work, communicate with others and play interactive games. But as you know, online access comes with a risk which can sometimes expose children to inappropriate content, cyber bullying and online predators. It is important that we are aware of what children hear and see on the internet, who they communicate with and what they share about themselves. The best way to protect your children is to spend time talking to them about what they do online, using tools to protect them and keeping a close eye on their online activities.

As many of you have probably heard on the news recently, online challenges have become a hot topic and we recently wrote to parents about the 'Momo' challenge that targeted young people. Although some challenges are completely innocent, others can have much more sinister undertones, potentially putting young people at risk. You can download the link below that provides a simple guide to what parents need to know about the online challenges that young people face today. I have also provided a link for what parents need to know about YouTube, as this is one online platform where 'online challenges' emerge and as a parent it is important to understand exactly what content your child might be seeing. You will also find some useful tips to help protect your child on this link.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/online-challenges-guide-for-parents-2/>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/youtube-online-safety-guide/>

As you may remember in our last newsletter I wrote about the importance of the affect of screen time on young children. Whether kids are into Fortnite, Minecraft or Roblox; if you have a keen gamer on your hands you may want to take a look at these 6 online gaming tips for parents. Also just a reminder on the advice from professionals that recommends children should not use technology in the hour before bedtime and that the use of devices does not replace sleep, exercising and quality time spent with family.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/online-gaming-top-tips-for-parents/>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs O'Malley

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E-Safety Lead