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Online Safety

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of their RHE learning this week and next, our Year 6 pupils are learning how to behave online and also ways of dealing with negative comments online from others.

As part of this learning the children have discussed their online usage and also ways in which they can ensure they are staying safe online.

With an increasing number of children using whatsapp, tiktok, snapchat and other social media applications, a lot of our conversations have been about knowing who you are talking to, who you are letting into your chat and what the consequences are of this.

As we know, online safety needs to be something which is taught and discussed at home as well as at school. Therefore, we would like to share some tips and resources to help you guide your children and help you keep up to date in a digital world. The children's world is on line and off line and they see no distinction between the two worlds. Please support school by helping your child to stay safe online.

Here are a number of various sites and tips to help you keep your children safe online:

Internet Matters has a number of resources for different age groups 0-5, 6-10, 11-13, 14+
www.internetmatters.org

Think u know is a good place to start. You will see the report abuse button that your child will know about from school.
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/

Another site for parent controls is <u>UK Safer Internet Centre</u> (http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers)
This site advises you to take four steps:
1. Have **ongoing conversations** with your children about staying safe online.
2. Use **safety tools** on social networks and other online services, e.g. Facebook privacy settings.
3. Decide if you want to use **parental controls** on your home internet.
4. Understand devices and the **parental control** tools they offer in our Parents' Guide to Technology.

Talking to your child about online safety: Advice on how to start the conversation
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/

Technology Rule Sharing with the wider family

Children spend time at other people's houses so please share your technology rules with grandparents, babysitters and older siblings, so that they stick to them when they look after your child or use the family computer.

The rules and conversations you have now will set the tone for your child's internet use as they get older. It is vital that we support children in responsible use of technology and how to be safe and considerate when online.

Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe.

Kind regards,

Mrs Travers and The Year 6 Team