E-safety Advice

Following some recent training for parents and staff we are keen to share some of the main learning points with those unable to attend. The parents who attended were very positive about the content and how it will help them to support their children.

The internet is an amazing resource and is not something to be scared of. It **enables children to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways**, however the internet is always changing and being up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge. Children are very confident users of technology but **they still need advice and protection** when it comes to being safe when using the internet.

When using the internet it is important that children are always **supervised by a responsible adult**. They should be aware of who is able to view any information they share and **not to share their information with strangers**. Children need to be made aware that new friends made online via a social media site or internet gaming network **may not be who they say they are**.

Regularly talk to your children about how they are using the internet. Make sure your children understand the **importance of telling a trusted adult** if something they see online makes them feel uncomfortable, or if someone is being unkind to them. **Children need to know they can tell you anything that has happened and that they won't be in trouble** or have their computer taken away but as a parent you will be proud of them for telling you.

Some online content is not suitable for children and may be hurtful or harmful. Make sure you **configure your internet connection** to prevent them from accessing it as much as possible. Your internet service provider can give you advice about this.

Be aware of what computer games your children are playing and who they are playing with online. Games come with an age rating which tells you which age group the content in the game is suitable for**. Age ratings relate to the content of a game rather than how difficult it is**. See below for how to check content of games/Apps/films your children may ask you for.

Consider making an agreement with your child about when they can use technology. It may be helpful to make sure tablets/laptops are charged in a family area at night and not in their bedrooms.

Useful links

http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers	Advice on how to have a conversation with your child about how they use the internet.
http://www.internetmatters.org/controls/	Information on how to set parental controls to make the internet safe to use.
http://www.imdb.com/	You can search for computer games on this website and find out information on their content.
https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/	If someone has acted inappropriately towards your child online you can report it to the police via the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

We really hope this information supports you to support your child. If you have any questions please talk to Mr Fisher, our e-safety leader or your child's class teacher. As a school our next steps are to add visuals to our e-safety rules to ensure they are accessible to all children. We will share these rules with you once they are complete and you may like to have the same/similar ones for home.