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*Headteacher: Mr Peter Allen*



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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are all aware that families use a whole range of different devices that allow them to get online almost anywhere, at any time, and communicate with almost anyone using social media. As a school and as parents we have a key role in helping all our children to be safe online.

We have recently been made aware of some issues that children in school are having when using the internet and social media out of school hours. These are mainly to do with the older children in school but, as we know, children of all ages generally have access to devices which connect them to the internet. We are aware that children have recently posted inappropriate comments online about other children or have accessed inappropriate websites, often without the knowledge of their parents. At school we have filters provided by the Local Authority that prevent access to some websites but at home it is up to each individual family to know what is being viewed. It is therefore important that we teach them to be responsible and to be safe online as soon as possible. The Computing curriculum covers e-safety and cyber-bullying and these aspects are covered on a regular basis. It is also important that as adults we model appropriate behaviour in how we use social media, eg, Facebook, Twitter and other social sites. These are not the correct forum if there are issues or concerns about the school, staff or pupils as the first port of call should be the class teacher.

As the Christmas holidays approach and many children may spend more time playing indoors, we thought it would be helpful to provide some up to date guidance that has been released. Please find attached a new newsletter produced by an E safety specialist #DITTO which is a half-termly magazine for schools and parents. The magazine is about keeping you up to date with risks, issues, advice and guidance related to keeping children safe online, commonly called e-safety or online safety, but also with a view to enjoying and learning about technology. Also attached is the latest Digital Parenting magazine from Vodafone.

Please note not all of the information is relevant to primary school children but is good to know if you have older children or ready to support your child going up to Secondary school. It may be appropriate to share some of the content with your children, eg, the amount of recommended screen time, and discuss some of the issues that are raised. Copies will also be published on the school website where e-safety pages can also be accessed.

If you have any concerns with regards to e-safety please do contact the school and we will be happy to discuss and advise.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Allen  
Headteacher