



RJ/MF  
3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

**Online Safety (staying safe online; internet safety; e-safety; cyber safety)**

Ensuring children's safety online is vitally important. It is equally as important that children know the appropriate way to behave online. Children (and adults) should understand that the same behaviour expectations exist online just as they do in real life.

Recent insights from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre ([CEOP](#)) and the [NSPCC](#) have highlighted several current concerns:

- **Exposure to inappropriate content** - children are encountering harmful material online, including violent and sexual content. The Children's Commissioner for England reports that some children as young as 9 years old have been approached by strangers online
- **Online scams and financial exploitation** - with the rise of in-game purchases and online transactions, children are increasingly susceptible to scams. This was a focus of our recent Safer Internet Day.
- **Sextortion and online threats** - there has been a significant increase in cases where children are coerced into sharing explicit images which are then used to threaten them.

At school, children are taught about Online Safety as part of our Computing and PSHE curriculum, but we need to work in partnership with parents to ensure children are safe and behaving appropriately. If your child has a phone or uses a device connected to the internet, I urge you to make regular, unannounced checks of their devices – checking their messages (including deleted messages), photos, apps, games and browsing history.

**We will be running the school Online Safety Workshop for parents again on XXXX with Mrs Ford. This is an in-person workshop that will take place in the Learning Zone. We encourage all parents to join if they are able.**

**Do you know...?**

- Children who play *Fortnite* must be 12 years old (*Fortnite* is an online multiplayer shooting game)
- *WhatsApp* users must be 13 years or older
- *Snapchat* users must be at least 13 years old

This means that no pupil in primary school should be using these games or apps.

**Guidance for parents can be found in the following links:**

- [What do I need to know about Fortnite? A guide for parents and carers](#)
- [What is WhatsApp? A safety guide for parents](#)
- [Snapchat What parents needs to know](#)
- Online Safety advice for parents from the [Tandridge Learning Trust](#)

Please check the devices, apps and platforms your child uses and speak to a member of staff if you have concerns.

Best wishes

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