Farington Moss St Paul's Primary School

Online Safety Newsletter

In addition to regular updates on Online Safety through school newsletters we are pleased to launch a new initiative to help you support your child when using the internet. We hope this newsletter provides you with some helpful information over the Christmas season.

Technology and the online world are rapidly changing and our children want to engage with the latest technologies and trends. Christmas is a time when many children request new tablets, games consoles, computer games or even mobiles or smart phones. The Christmas holidays also provide more opportunities for children to be 'online'.

Being online

When your child is using the internet it is important to remind them to stay safe. Remind them about the potential online dangers (for example cyber bullying, inappropriate content or images, inappropriate behaviour and chatting to strangers). The Ofcom report 'Children and Parent's Media Use and Attitudes report November 2016' states "Across all 5-15s there has been an increase since 2015 in estimated hours spent online (15 hours vs.13 hours 42 minutes per week on average), with an increase for 8-11s in particular (12 hours 54 minutes vs. 11 hours 6 minutes)." (Ref. https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/media-literacy-research/children/children-parents-nov16)

There are many websites with helpful guidelines.

Six tips from the NSPCC about keeping your child safe online are:

1. Have a conversation about using the internet early and often.
2. Explore the internet together.
3. Know who your child is talking to online.
4. Set rules and agree boundaries.
5. Make sure content is age appropriate.
6. Use parental controls to filter, restrict, monitor and report content.
7. Check privacy settings and remind children to keep personal information private.

For more in depth information visit the NSPCC (see link below). The website also has useful information about staying safe online using mobiles, smart phones and tablets.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Here are some other additional useful links to websites with helpful tips and information to support you.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/social-media/

http://parentinfo.org/

We wish you a very happy and safe Christmas.