29th June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

ONLINE SAFETY

We are writing to remind parents of on how to ensure their child’s use of the internet, social media and computer games is appropriate and safe.

We advise parents to adhere to recommended age limits (the minimum age for opening a Facebook, Instagram, Tumbler, Twitter, KiK account is 13 years of age, because of the safety risk these sites can pose). Use of sites such as YouTube should be monitored and parents should ensure that it is viewed through Restricted/Safety mode. You should also make use of the parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices by contacting your provider or checking online, for e.g. internetmatters.org.

We have been made aware that some children have been playing a game at home called Fortnite. This multiplayer game has a PEGI rating of 12 years old, meaning that it is not suitable for primary school aged children due to scenes of violence, murder and weapons, and the in-game chat feature poses a risk of grooming and exploitation.

The British police force have also issued warnings to parents over a social media game called Blue Whale and children being exposed to The Blue Whale Challenge, available on various different platforms, which encourages participants to engage in self-harm and suicide.

There are some suggestions and resources on our website and in the lobby on how parents can promote safe internet use for children. This includes a ‘Set Up Safe Checklist’ and a ‘Child Safety Online’ hand-out.

Do speak to one of the Senior Leadership Team if you have any questions or concerns.

Robin Warren
Head Teacher