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Dear Parents

It has come to our attention that some of the children in Year 6 have not been using the internet in a safe and controlled manner at home. As a result, some pupils have been exposed to unsafe material and interacted with unknown people online through chat sites. Unfortunately, some of the pupils have then shared this content and websites with other children within the class.

We have spoken to the pupils and re-iterated in the strongest of terms the how they should be accessing the internet and how to keep themselves safe online. It does seem that there are a number of pupils within the Year 6 class that are accessing a range of unsuitable websites and social media platforms which do have some age restrictions usually at the age of 13 but some at the age of 18.

The children have regular e-safety lessons to ensure they know how to keep themselves safe. They are able to explain these rules and how they should use the internet responsibly within school. However, it seems that when they are at home these rules are not adhered to which places them at risk.

I have included extracts from our Computing Policy and Acceptable use of the internet policy for you to refresh your knowledge. We also send out e-safety letters on a monthly basis which highlight how to use parental controls and the age restrictions on websites. It is imperative that we keep all of our children safe from harm both in school and out in the wider world and we do not apologise for requesting that this partnership between school and home is strengthened to achieve that aim. If you require assistance to place parental controls on devices the children are using please do come and ask the staff in Year 5 and 6 to support you in this. We will be more than willing to help.

USE OF THE INTERNET- (Taken from our Computing Policy)

Children get the opportunity to develop their Internet skills in all subject areas. They are taught how to use the Internet safely and how some information found on the Internet can be unreliable. During Computing lessons children have specific E-safety lessons. They are taught the SMART e-safety rules as well as being taught online research and note taking skills.

As a duty of care, teaching staff will inform a member of the Senior Leadership Team or a member of the Computing team if they have evidence of children using websites or applications that are not appropriate for them. This includes sites and applications that children are using at home.

Leaders will follow this up with both the child and parent and report the child to the company concerned.

Many websites have an age restriction of 13 and over, and are therefore not suitable for any Primary aged children.

The following applications/sites are examples and are not an exhaustive list.

Application/Site	Age Restriction
Musical.ly	age limit 13+
Fortnite	age limit 12+
Tiktok	Age limit 13+
Instagram	age limit 13+
Facebook	age limit 13+
WhatsApp	age limit 13+
Snapchat	age limit 13+
YouTube channel	age limit 13+
Minecraft	has two age limit settings 7+ & 13+

Best wishes

Mr Paul D Smith - Executive Head Teacher