



St. John's CE Primary School

Growing and learning together
Sharing the love of God

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Dear Parents/Carers,

At St John's we value the use of technology to support our learning and as a way of communicating with others. During the pandemic many of us spent more time online than ever before and the children benefitted from being able to see their friends on Teams and Zoom.

Recently, Year 5 had a visit from the Safer Schools and Communities Team to talk about using the internet for chatting and gaming. The focus of the talk was the importance of respectful behaviour online.

It has come to our attention that some pupils are in a WhatsApp group. Unfortunately, some children in the group have not been respectful and have used it to talk inappropriately about other children and use bad language. We have also had instances of children phoning others late at night.

As parents it is your responsibility to ensure your children are safe online when they are at home. Obviously our key intention is to ensure that children are safe at all times and we are concerned about some children accessing online material whilst not being supervised. In addition to this, a great deal of school time is being used to solve problems that are not actually taking place in school.

We strongly suggest:

- Phones, tablets and iPads are not in children's rooms at night and that all use of technology is in a shared space such as the kitchen or lounge
- You regularly check your child's internet behaviour and have a clear understanding of what games they are playing
- You filter the internet so that your child cannot see harmful or offensive things. This website is very useful <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>
- You teach your child to report anything they see which might be offensive or frightening
- Don't send your child to bed with a mobile device
- Do not download apps which are not age appropriate (Users of WhatsApp should be 13 or over to register)
- Disable chat functions on games
- Teach your child how to screen shot anything worrying or offensive

I hope this will be useful to you.

Best wishes,

Miss Lea
Year 5 Teacher & E-Safety



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