The Moorlands Primary Federation

TMPF
THE MOORLANDS
PRIMARY FEDERATION

Friday September 28th 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Re: Online safety

As we begin this school year, and many new and wonderful online games and resources are marketed to your child, via the internet, by gaming companies, we wanted to once again highlight the importance of online safety. Below are a few tips to help you keep your children safe online:

Think u know (https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Primary/) is always a good place to start you will see the report abuse button that your child will know about from school.

Another site that is helpful for parent controls is **UK Safer Internet Centre** (http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers)

This site advises you to take four steps:

1. Have ongoing **conversations with your children** about staying safe online;
2. Use **safety tools on social networks and other online services**, e.g. privacy settings;
3. Decide if you want to use **parental controls** on your home internet;
4. Understand devices and the parental control tools they offer in.

Digital Parenting is another useful website to look at – http://www.pitda.co.uk/

There are three areas to think about:

WHO your child is talking to,
WHAT they're doing, and
WHERE they're going online

Digital Parenting also advises you to set **"ground rules"** by making your own **family online policy.**

You might wish to consider:

o Creating boundaries and rules for the amount of time your son or daughter can spend online. It's never too early to start putting limits into place;

o Choosing an appropriate homepage on your family computer or tablet – for example, bbc.co.uk/cbeebies;

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o   Familiarise yourself with current high use applications and games and the user terms. For example, users of: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Reddit, Pininterest, Wechat, Tumblr and Secret **should be aged 13 and over**. Users of WhatsApp **should be 16 and over**. These age limits are set to keep children safe.

o   Check the user settings if your child plays or has access to: Xbox Live, Roblox and Fortnite **(recommended player age is 12)**.

o   Share your technology rules with grandparents, babysitters and older siblings, so that they stick to them when they look after your child or use the family computer.

o   The rules and conversation you have now will set the tone for your child's internet use as they get older.

If you have any questions regarding online safety, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Kind regards,

The Moorlands Primary Federation Team