The Moorlands Primary Federation

July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Online safety

As we near the beginning of the well-deserved summer holiday and online activity increases, 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.

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;

The Moorlands Primary Federation

Registered Office: St. Werburgh's C. E. (A) Primary School, Kingsley, Staffordshire. ST10 2BA. Telephone: 01538 702355.

- 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 conversations, which you have now, will set the tone for your child's internet use as they get older.

The NSPCC is another useful website to look at – https://www.nspcc.org.uk. They also have an online safety helpline: 0808 800 5002.

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