

21st November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Online Safety

It has been brought to our attention that some Year Six children are not using their electronic devices in a safe and kind way.

We have been made aware of:

- Inappropriate language being used during chats.
- Threats of physical violence to peers within the chats.
- Potentially older siblings being added to the chats and making threats.

The apps and sites that some of the children are using have age-restrictions. These restrictions are put in place for a reason.

As part of our duty of care to all of our children we would strongly urge you to:

- Speak to your child about appropriate behaviour when online
- Check your child's device on a regular basis to ensure they are staying safe and acting safe when online.
- Check what apps your child is using to communicate with others online.

Below are some links that as a parent you may find useful. We know the online world can be a minefield to navigate.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/child-abuse-and-harm/keeping-children-safe-online>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides>

As a school we educate our children how to stay safe online. In addition, we are looking to run some specific sessions with outside providers, such as our local PCSO, the NSPCC, with identified year groups, such as Year 6 and with parents. Once dates are confirmed we will provide further details.

In the meanwhile, if you have any questions or wish to share any concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Smith, Miss Stimson, Mrs Cheung, Mrs Bishop and Mrs Maguire
(Designated Safeguarding Leads for Firbeck Academy)