



Peover Superior
Endowed Primary School



Friday 2nd February 2018

Safer Internet Day 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

On Tuesday 6th February it is Safer Internet Day – a global initiative to raise awareness about E-Safety. Children across our school will be exploring this year's focus which is 'Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you'. In our weekly Computing lessons this half term each class has already discussed some key principles for staying safe online – we have talked about what to do if they have concerns about the content of a website, an app or a computer game; the importance of keeping our personal details private; the amount of time we should spend using devices and the need to speak to people respectfully – both online and in real life. On Safer Internet Day I am hoping that we can build on children's knowledge of E-Safety as well as celebrate the positive aspects of the Internet. In each class, children will be completing activities linked with this year's theme and there will be a whole-school assembly to share what classes have learnt during the day, as well as set children a homework challenge for Friday 9th February.

To reinforce the learning which has taken place during our Computing lessons and on Safer Internet Day, it would be useful to continue the discussions about E-Safety at home. During our first week of Computing this half term, I surveyed children about how they use the Internet at home and their knowledge of E-Safety. As a school we were mostly pleased with children's knowledge of online safety, there were a few issues which concerned the school and I would like to take this opportunity to share them with you:

- Some children said that they use Social Media including Snapchat, Instagram and Instant Messaging. It is important to note that all of these have age restrictions of at least 13. If you as a parent are giving permission for your children to use these aspects of social media please ensure your privacy settings are regularly checked and you are fully aware of what your child is accessing and who they are communicating with.
- Some children admitted to playing on games such as Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto which have a PEGI age-rating of 18. In school we are strongly advising children that these games are not suitable – they have explicit language, violence and content of a sexual nature.
- Some children commented that they use devices for over three hours a day.
- Some children said that when playing online games they talk to people who they have met online.

During our E-Safety lessons I have addressed issues which arose from the surveys but it would also be incredibly beneficial to have regular dialogues at home about internet safety so that children feel comfortable discussing the problems they may face on the Internet. In the digital age we are living in, technology is continually developing – new apps, games and websites are added each day – so it is important that discussions are had frequently about what children are using, playing and looking at.



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To support you with tackling E-Safety at home, there is an E-Safety page on our website which gives 10 tips for staying safe online as well as links to online safety websites and E-Safety videos. I have also added age restrictions for Social Media apps and websites, as well as explanations of what PEGI ratings on computer games mean. Furthermore, you can download the Safer Internet Day Factsheet which recommends some websites you can go to for information about E-Safety; resources to support safe use of the Internet at home and useful contacts for reporting internet safety concerns.

I hope your children enjoy Safer Internet Day and that we can continue to work together to support children in using the Internet safely, responsibly and respectfully.

Yours sincerely

Miss Pip Woodward
Computing Subject Leader



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