



Acting Headteacher: Mr Carl Sutherland

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Dear Parents/carers

It has come to our attention that more and more of our children are using different social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Snapchat and Tiktok.

While social media can be great for socialising, it can also have **some harmful effects**. Therefore it is vital that we as teachers, parents and carers understand the dangers and implications various sites could pose and educate each child on how to be safe and respectful when online. Please remember that each app or site which your child uses will have an age rating - most have an age restriction of **13 years old**.

Within school we have security measures in place, which are constantly monitored, to help safeguard pupils from any potential dangers. Online safety is also taught within each Computing lesson and this afternoon KS2 have had an additional lesson to highlight and go over the importance of being safe online.

### What can parents/carers do?

- Discuss how the internet will be used in your house.
- Consider what should be kept private online (personal information, photos etc.)
- Make sure you know what your child is doing online much like you would offline.
- Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or contact
- Think about locating your computer in a supervised family area.
- Consider your child's use of other devices that allow internet access such as Mobile Phones and Games Consoles.
- Discuss with your children the age limits for various sites.
- Always ensure your child knows how to block or report people online.
- Make sure your child knows to tell an adult they trust if they see something online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.

### Websites for more information:

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) – Visit the “Parent/Carer” Section and use the “Click CEOP” button to seek advice

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com) – Visit the ‘Know It All’ Section for an interactive guide about online safety  
[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org) – Free up-to-date Security advice, age specific advice  
<https://www.common sense media.org/> - Excellent advice about Internet Safety

For more information, please feel free to speak with a member of the staff team and we will be more than happy to help in anyway we can.

Yours faithfully

*Carl Sutherland*

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