

Online Safety

Newsletter

September 2023

A very warm welcome to Term 1! I hope you have enjoyed the Summer break!

I would like to welcome our new Digital Leaders to their new role for this academic year.

Harper, Oscar, Jasmine, Denva, Zoe-Ann, Eugene, Riley and Beau have already done an amazing job for the start of this year!

A Digital Leader is a very important role in school as they have several jobs they need to fulfil to help keep the school safe.

Part of their contract is listed below:

- I will make sure that the devices we have in school are looked after and plugged in so that they can charge.
- Any damage or anything that requires attention, I will report this to Mrs Morton and record on the sheet on the laptop trolley.
- I will promote and be an advocate for online safety.
- I will be a good role model to others when using the internet and devices.
- I will help Mrs Morton review apps that we use in school.
- I will help review the learning that takes place in school.
- I will attend our Digital Leader meetings.
- I will help Mrs Morton organise events that link to online safety such as 'Safer Internet Day.'

Our first conversation as a group started with discussing their new role for this academic year as well as talking about '**liking something online**'.



We know that sometimes when you like something online, it isn't always a good thing!

Here is what our Digital Leaders say:

'If you like things like small puppies that is okay or if you like something in your social media group that's okay if it is nice.'

'So sometimes you can go through a little rabbit hole when you like something – so make sure you like nice things otherwise the horrible things will keep showing to you.'

'If all horrible things come up because it is the same person on TikTok you can unfollow or dislike it by clicking the like button again.'

'Sometimes people can be horrible and like something they shouldn't.'

Thank you for our amazing discussion Digital Leaders – we should ask your classmates whether they think the same!

Online Safety – The basics

I thought as it is the first online safety newsletter for the year, I would go over some of the basics to keep every one of our families safe online!

At Charlton, the children are taught the SMART targets which are :



(Childnet 2023)

Safe – Keep your password secret and do not give out your full name,

address or contact details publicly online.

Meet – Only meet up with friends/family that you know and that have been agreed by your parents. Stranger=danger!

Accepting – Do not accept anything online that is too good to be true! Be careful what you click as it may be a scam or a virus.

Reliable- Check your sources before you believe anything you see online!

Tell – Tell an adult if there is anything you feel uncomfortable or upset over online. It is important you tell grown-ups what you are up to online.

Heart – Be kind online!

A method we teach the school is 'Turn it off and tell.' If they are in any doubt and if they are not sure what to do 'Turn off the screen and tell an adult'.

Being safe online can vary for every family however I do have some top tips for grown-ups who may be

worried about keeping their children and family safe whilst using the internet.

(<https://www.connectsafely.org/instagram/> Information can be found on this website)

For very young children (1-6 years old) it is important that we, as adults, nurture and show them what to do, whilst having fun at the same time. Make time to play age-appropriate online games/apps with your children and share the positivity of being online. **Please monitor your children's internet use at all times when they are using devices.** I cannot stress this enough. The more you know and the more you are interested about their internet use, the more they will feel open to tell you what they do and how they act online.

As children get older (7-11 year olds) it is important to keep an open dialogue (conversation) with them, to allow them to be honest and keep you up to date with what they are watching and using online. It is important that internet use is based on trust and communication. You can use appropriate filters online to ensure that there are minimal risks and this is where you can really embed the SMART online safety reminders for your children.

Remember to keep reminding your children what to do if they see something they do not like or makes them uncomfortable online.

What to do if you need to report harmful content?

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/harmful-content-online-an-explainer/>

Even though we use filters and parental controls, things still slip past the algorithms and may cause your child to be distressed or made to feel uncomfortable. It is vital that you report harmful content as this could save another child being subject to seeing or hearing inappropriate things online.

Please use the Report Harmful Content on the internet so that we can keep all families safe.



My child is using a new app and I don't know if it is appropriate.

If you need any advice about apps:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/> Please visit this website that has useful

information about what the apps are and what they are used for.

How do I check whether the app is age-appropriate?

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

Games and apps use the PEGI (Pan European Game Information) to provide guidance for parents and carers as to whether they are age-appropriate for their children. It considers the age suitability and not the level of difficulty of the game. It is suggested the minimum age in which the game should be played.

Latest news:

It was very sad for all of us to hear the news about the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. I found an online book of condolence for the royal family for anybody who would like to participate in this or if you would like to complete this as a family.

<https://www.royal.uk/send-message-condolence>

Safe search engines you can use at home!

- 1- Kidtopia.
- 2- Kid's Search Engine.
- 3- Kiddle.
- 4- DuckDuckGo.
- 5- GoGooligans.
- 6- KidRex.
- 7- Safe Search Kids.

- 8- KidzSearch.
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Helpful video and guidance to online safety for parents/carers.

<https://youtu.be/nQ7TYRYoF4M>

Helpful websites for you:

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

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/47/>

<https://www.childnet.com/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

Save the date!



If you have any questions or need any advice about internet safety. Please do not hesitate to contact me. Best wishes Mrs Morton.