Headteacher: Mr Martin Fallon

Online Safety

Dear Parents

Online Safety at Mosborough

As a school, we are always trying to develop new and exciting ways to promote Online Safety in our community. Currently, our Online Safety Curriculum is delivered within computing lessons, as well as forming part of our P4C discussions. We will also be celebrating Safer Internet Day during this school year. We continue to aim to broaden our focus in school in order to concentrate on the issues which can affect children every single day such as fake news, screen time and the commercial risks when using the internet. I hope that these termly newsletters can go some way towards providing you with the relevant advice and support that you need. From setting parental controls to teaching your child how to be a good friend online, I will try to cover general issues and also those which I feel may have cropped up in school.

Friendship Week

This half term, we will be celebrating 'Friendship week' in school. (Monday 11 - Friday 15 November 2019). The information below is taken from the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the NSPCC website and is linked to the ways in which we can promote healthy online friendships and avoid cyber-bullying.

What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is any form of bullying that is carried out through the use of electronic media devices, such as computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets, or gaming consoles.

What makes cyberbullying different?

We know there is a strong link between cyberbullying and face to face bullying. Research has shown that 80% of victims of cyberbullying were also bullied face to face.

"Bullying is far more wide spread now it is online - it's not just your time in school. It affects your social life. Your social life is online. How many people like your status or your picture. Social pressures are just made worse."

There are some things that make cyberbullying different to 'traditional' bullying:

- **24-7 nature** - the nature of online activity means you can be in contact at any time.
There is the potential for a **wider audience** and bullying incidents can stay online, for example: a photo that you can't remove
- **Evidence** - a lot of cyberbullying incidents allow those experiencing it to keep evidence - for example, take a screen shot - to show to school staff or police if needed.
- Potential to **hide your identity** - it is possible to hide your identity online which can make cyberbullying incidents very scary

- **Degree of separation** - people who cyberbully often don't see the reaction of those experiencing it so it can sometimes be harder for them to see the impact of their actions

Advice for Children:

Promoting Healthy Relationships

Tips for promoting healthy relationships to 5 to 11-year-olds

- Empower children to have individuality and help them understand that everyone is unique.

- Praise children for demonstrating honesty, kindness, and respect for others.

- Give children opportunities to voice their opinions and encourage them to listen to other people's views.

- Help children understand that "no" means "no" and make sure they know who to talk to if they are ever

  uncomfortable with something they have been asked them to do.

- Work with children to resolve conflicts and help them understand how others might be affected.

- Talk to children about bullying in all its forms and make sure they know how to get help if they need it.

Online Safety Champions

I am proud to announce that we now have eight brand new Year 5 Online Safety Champions who have each been assigned to a year group in school. Throughout the year, they will launch competitions, deliver assemblies, and run events with their respective classes in order to raise the profile of Online Safety across school. For updates on current events, please keep an eye out on the school website.

Further Information:

Think U Know: The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) maintains a website for children and young people, and parents and carers about staying safe online
Childline: information about bullying
Kidscape: information for young people
NSPCC: advice for parents and carers to keep young people safe from bullying

Please do not hesitate to ask any further questions and remember to check the Online Safety Page on the school website for further resources.

Yours
Miss Sanderson