



6 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Internet Safety

Due to the new announcement of a longer lockdown, I write in respect of internet safety and raising awareness of what your child is accessing online. I am sure many of you are familiar with social media platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Instagram and many more.

For many young people now, this is their main source of communication, and we have seen an increase in the usage of devices across the nation as a result of the National Lockdown, and this really being one of the only (and often preferred) forms of contact for young people at present.

Whilst these platforms are incredibly useful, many young people can access platforms and sites without fully knowing the risks associated with each, or how to report concerns should they have them when using these sites. I have included the following [link](#) which informs you of how your child can report concerns on most of the major platforms. This website has many other articles which you can access with regards to keeping safe online, and appropriate content.

Another excellent source of information is www.nationalonlinesafety.com. There are many guides on this website which can be found [here](#). Guides include:

- Online safety tips for students who have new devices
- Safety tips for gaming consoles and games
- Safety tips for social media platforms.

This website also has a very useful app that you can download from the App Store (Apple) or Playstore (Android) which allows you easy access to the above information.

Please can I ask that you try and limit the time students spend on their phones and/or social media websites during school hours, this will support a real focus on students learning, very much similar to what would be happening at school.

I would urge you to ensure your child is aware of the dangers associated with the Internet, particularly at this difficult time with such long hours spent completing school work, and of course, the down time that is needed for the students, which for many is spent online.

I thank you for your support in this matter and know for many, the online world can be a scary place due to our lack of understanding about the new technologies and platforms which are developing so quickly around us. I hope the above information provides small steps in ensuring we protect our children.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C Burns
Senior Assistant Headteacher