



Monday 5th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm sure that it would come as no surprise to you that during the last few years we have seen an almost exponential rise in the number of issues in school as a result of the misuse of technology. New websites, apps and services appear much faster than we, as adults, can keep up with them and children are now invariably more competent users of technology than adults. We have been shocked and mortified by some of the content which All Souls children have accessed on their devices at home as well as the way in which they have communicated with both each other and complete strangers, who they believe to be their friends. We also have grave concerns that this situation has the potential to become far worse in the near future.

Although we are very proud of our e-safety curriculum, and were praised for this at our last Ofsted inspection, we know that computing lessons alone are not enough to ensure that our children are equipped to keep themselves safe online. We also appreciate how difficult it is, as parents, to find the balance between giving children freedom and independence, and putting in the rules and restrictions to keep them safe.

With that in mind, over the next few months we'll be looking to provide you with additional support and guidance around e-safety and online behavior including more information and details around our school e-safety curriculum, practical help in putting restrictions on devices used at home and information sessions for parents where you can have any questions or concerns answered.

In addition, we have subscribed to a service, as a school, which will ensure that we are kept up-to-date with latest information, facts, figures and advice. We will also receive a monthly newsletter, for distribution to parents, which is dedicated to the latest online safety information. I am pleased to attach the first of these newsletters to this email and hope that you are able to take the time to read and think about its content.

With the summer holidays rapidly approaching, many children will have even greater access to Internet enabled devices, and I hope that this can serve as a reminder to us all of our responsibility to become knowledgeable around the topic in order to keep our children safe.

Please remember that school is always available, as a first port of call, to offer you advice and support with technology and e-safety matters.

Kind regards

Andy Cooke
Deputy Headteacher / e-Safety Lead