



October 2022

E-Safety Meeting for Parents/Carers

Dear Parents/Carers

We are committed to keeping children safe online. We have security measures in place which constantly monitor online activity in school to keep children safe. E-safety is taught across the school explaining how children should keep themselves safe.

We will only be successful in keeping our children safe online if we work with parents and carers to ensure the e-safety messages are consistent. The increasing availability of ways to communicate with people online can be advantageous in many ways but it can pose a serious risk to our children too. This risk is present in all communities and has recently been highlighted in ours.

We are well aware that the technological world moves very quickly and that children are accessing a greater amount of online content than we did in our own childhoods. You may find that your children are asking to engage with online content that you are unfamiliar with.

There are steps that parents/carers can take to minimise the risk to children.

- **Online Safety**
Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions to block unsuitable content.
- Parental controls are tools but are not always 100% effective so don't rely on them alone to protect your child.
- **Supervision**
Think about where your children are using devices. Supervise use of devices which allow video or voice chat. Do you know which apps / games they are using? Most social media platforms state that they should not be used by primary school aged children.
- **Dialogue**
Talk to your children and ask them to show you the online resources they use.
- Ensure your child knows how to block or report people online who send content they don't like. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply.
- Make sure your child knows that they should tell someone if they see something that makes them scared or worried.

We have arranged a support session for parents/carers to take place in the school hall on Thursday 13th October at 9am. The session will be led by one of South Tyneside's IT specialists and will provide parents with current information and guidance on how to keep children safe online. I would strongly urge you to attend the session even if you feel that good safety measures are in place. The session has been arranged at short notice in response to an online safety issue which has been brought to our attention this week involving some of our pupils.

Yours sincerely,

E Cook

Head Teacher