<u>**E-Safety Advice – Newsletter (04 10 19)**</u>

<u>**Keeping our children safe online.**</u>

Often the best way to keep our children safe online is to have regular open discussions with them. The NSPCC have come up with some helpful conversation points and tips to help you get started:

Explore sites and apps together:

- Talk about what might be OK for children of different ages. Ask your child what sites or apps they like. Write a list, and look at them together.
- Be positive about what you see, but also be open about concerns you have: "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here".
- Talk to your child about what you think is appropriate – but also involve them in the conversation. Ask what they think is OK for children of different ages – they'll feel involved in the decision-making.
- Be aware that your child might talk about friends who use apps or visit sites that you've decided aren't suitable. Be ready to discuss your reasons, but recognise that they may not agree with you. Listen carefully for the reasons why.
- Go through a final list of sites you both agree are OK, and work out when you'll next discuss it.

Talk about how they can stay safe on social networks

Ask your child if they know:
- where reporting functions are
- how to block someone
- how to keep information private. Show them how to do these things. Visit https://www.net-aware.org.uk/ for help.

Talk about online privacy. Explain that online behaviour – including sharing personal information – should mirror behaviour in person.

Explain that talking to strangers isn't always 'bad', but they should always be careful about what they share and sometimes people aren't who they say they are.

Talk about what information is ok to share and what is not.

Talk to your child about what 'personal information' is - such as email address, full name, phone number, address and school name - and why it's important.

Explain simple ways to protect privacy. For example, avoiding usernames like birthdates or locations that give away too much information.

Discuss images and photos, and what might be appropriate. Help your child understand how photographs can give people a sense of your personality, and that sharing the wrong kind of image can give the wrong impression.

Explain that it isn't easy to identify someone online. People aren't always who they say they are, so don't share personal information. If it's someone who genuinely knows your child, they shouldn't need to ask for personal information online.

Tell your child that if they're in any doubt they should talk to you first.

Further resources: The NSPCC website has some excellent resources that will help you to keep yourself and your children safe online. They also have a paid online course that is well worth looking into.

Mr Lowes