PUTTERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter

Spring 1, 2023

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999

Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:

The Safeguarding Team oversee and co-ordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs V Prowle

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mr C Pickard
Miss N Chinnery
Mrs L Bright

School Safeguarding Governors:

Mr S Leary
Mr H Uddin

All can be contacted via the office or by telephone on:
01582 728262

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, please visit the Safeguarding page on our school website:

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

The Safeguarding Team would like to wish you all a healthy and happy new year! It's been lovely to welcome the children back to school after the festive break and to hear all of their excited chatter about what they've been up to with you and their wider families.

I'm sure many of the children will have received gifts they can use to go online so it is a good opportunity to give some thought as to how we can all support them to stay safe in the virtual world whilst having fun.

With that in mind, this half-term's newsletter focuses on online safety with lots of useful tips as well as information regarding our upcoming annual Internet Safety Day which is always lots of fun and very informative for staff, children and parents alike.

Mrs V Prowle (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Useful Safeguarding Acronyms and Vocabulary

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead
MASH: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
CP: Child Protection
CiN: Child in Need
CEOP: Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre
KCSIE: Keeping Children Safe in Education
PREVENT: Part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn in to extremism
CAMHs: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
SEND: Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Report any concerns if you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused, please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead, or any member of staff. You can also contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on:

☎: 01582 547653

Out of Hours service: 0300 300 8123

🖥 MASH@luton.gov.uk

Or make an online referral via the website:
https://directory.luton.gov.uk/kb5/luton/directory/service.page?id=aJZE_OSgZfQ

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Types of Child Abuse

Physical | Sexual | Emotional | Neglect

Staying Safe Online with New Devices

Over Christmas, some lucky children will have excitedly torn off the wrapping for a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some, it will be the first time they have owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

The National Online Safety Team have put together some top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly.

Gifts such as Tablets, Gaming Consoles or Smartphones can all be used to go online so it is important to think ahead about what safety features are available and set them up in advance. The UK Internet Safety Centre have some very useful checklists with things to consider when choosing different devices.

Tip: The Safer Internet Centre has some excellent advice in their **Parents' guide to Technology** and includes device-specific settings for different models:
www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology

Setting up **Parental Controls** on the home internet connection may seem a little daunting but the highly regarded Internet Matters website has some really useful guidance from major broadband providers about setting up online filters.

Tip: Use the **Interactive Guide** on the website at:
www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide

Agreeing some **Behaviours and Expectations** before children receive devices can prevent some difficult conversations later. Additionally, Childnet have a hand Family Agreement which can be useful, especially for younger children – see www.childnet.com/blog/family-agreement

Tip: good agreements work both ways so if family-time involves no tech, this applies to adults too!

Not sure about Snaps, Streaks or Insta? The variety of **Apps** and **Social Media** tools can seem bewildering at first but the very highly recommended NetAware resource from O2 and the NSPCC is an excellent way to find out more about the different apps and games your child may use – see: www.netaware.org.uk

Tip: NetAware also has an app for your Smartphone to stay in touch with the latest updates.

Games can be over-looked but remember most modern consoles connect online and often have in-built web browsers. Ensuring **appropriate gaming content** is also important so check the PEGI-rating for different games, including the descriptions such as Sex, Violence or Bad Language – see: www.pegi.info

Tip: Some games offer in-game purchases for additional content. If so, **use vouchers** rather than credit cards to help save you from unexpected bills later.

Don't forget the positives! Being aware of the potential risks the online world poses is very important but don't forget it offers us immense opportunities and benefits, If you still aren't too sure, get involved and ask your child to teach you about their online world and what they do (and don't) like!

Tip: The GSCB's **'Useful Tips for Parents and Carers'** section of the GSCB Online Safety Website contains a variety of really useful information: www.gscb.org.uk/im-a-parent-or-carer/e-safety/

Further Advice:

Always set a password

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help keep their private information safe an will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!)

Keep numbers and devices private

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.

Pay attention to age ratings

One of the first things children want to do with any device is play games and explore apps. Before they download or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that is not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games appropriate for their age.

Have 'the money conversation'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain or have made a purchase by accident.

Explain secure WiFi Networks

Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those in coffee shops for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them knowing.

Discourage device dependency

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible but, whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun too and the device will still be there when they get back.

Limit screen time

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.

Only pair with known Bluetooth devices

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But, if they use Bluetooth to link with a device they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus to their device.

Turn location settings off

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.

Stay aware of the surroundings

It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your children that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.

Be there if they need to talk

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.

Good to know – minimum age limits for popular apps

Facebook (minimum age 13) – lets users create their own profiles, share status updates, pictures, videos and chat with other users and also has a messenger app.

Instagram (minimum age 13) – allows users to alter photos, upload them and share to other social networking sites. Photos and videos can be sent directly to specific users.
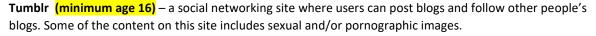
Snapchat (minimum age 13) – a photo-sharing app where users can send photos or videos to their friends. These will display on screen for up to ten seconds before being deleted, although it is possible to take screenshots of messages and download other apps designed to capture and save Snapchat content.

TikTok (minimum age 13) – TikTok users can make their own short videos on the mobile app and often like to have music accompany these. The users have creative control over the videos. Other TikTok users can 'react' to videos they see by filming their responses alongside the original video, or 'duet' by making a video alongside another video.

Twitter (minimum age 13) – a social network that lets users send and read 'Tweets': messages limited to 280 characters.

Tumblr (minimum age 16) – a social networking site where users can post blogs and follow other people's blogs. Some of the content on this site includes sexual and/or pornographic images.

WhatsApp (minimum age 16) – a free-of-charge, real-time messaging service. Users can share images and videos, take part in 'group chats' and share locations. As it's based on knowing the user's phone number, you can only message users if you already have this information.

YouTube (minimum age 16) – allows users to watch, create and comment on videos. The dislike button can create insecurities with content posted even if comments are turned off for the video.

CLICK CEOP
Internet Safety

Online Safety Day
21st February 2023

Children should feel safe **at all** times. This includes when they are online. We have a **School Internet Safety Agreement and Policy** which is regularly reviewed and updated. Staying safe in the virtual world is regularly discussed in class and we have yearly workshops for the children to further promote the importance of this.

Workshops by ECP are also offered to parents to offer advice, support and helpful tips for increasing internet safety in the home, including filters, time-limits and safety settings on various apps and devices as well as some of the risks of social media platforms that you may not be aware of. **This year's workshops for children will take place on Tuesday 21st February with online versions for parents and carers also available that week (further information regarding how to access these will be published nearer the time).**

The link below takes you to the new and improved e-safety pages on our website where there is lots of information and further links to websites that can support you at home, including useful 'What Parents Need To Know' factsheets on all things gaming and social media.

https://www.putteridgeprimaryschool.org.uk/page/onlinesafety