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NEWSLETTER 367

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Safer Internet Day 11th February 2014

"Let's create a better internet together" is the message from the UK Safer Internet Centre.

Schools, companies and governments are getting together to help encourage the safe, responsible and positive use of technology. Amongst the top tips are reminders to protect personal information, to know how to block and report inappropriate postings on social network sites. Of course it calls for adults, the parents of the children, to set examples to encourage children to show respect and only to show positive behaviour online.

The internet is a really marvellous and wonderful resource. It is also important to remember that online activity can be hurtful, harmful, a breach of trust and confidentiality, and even a matter for the police. Some postings or material may be offensive, whilst more serious acts of cyber bullying are illegal.

Remember inappropriate postings may be reportable to the police or to the web provider, but you can also block or report the posting. Facebook users can report another user by using the report/block link that appears at the bottom of a user's profile page or by listing the users name in the block list box that appears at the bottom of the privacy page. Take action now to protect your child.

The information sheets on the Safer Internet website confirm that it is really easy to feel anonymous online, but of course it is impossible to know who is able to view comments, conversations and pictures. There can be legal consequences for showing or using content without permission.

Another point to think about is that your child may be using the internet inadvertently spending the account holder's money, so it is well worth considering using the parent controls available. Account holders (you in most cases) have been known to run up bills of 100's of pounds by your children. From all the information, the message is that you need to ensure you and your family act responsibly when using the internet. So why not have a look at www.saferinternetday.org.uk for all the information and tips to becoming a more responsible parent when using the internet.

Yours sincerely

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