

2nd December 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

E-Safety at Middlefield

This week all of the children have had an e-safety lesson with their class teachers, with a real emphasis on staying safe online. As we have been talking with the children, it has become increasingly clear how many of the children have access to the internet on a range of devices – mobile phones, games consoles, PCs, laptops and tablets.

We have especially focussed on considering who they are talking to when they are online and how easy it is for people to conceal or hide their identity. We have strongly encouraged them to not talk to any strangers online (whether in games or over instant messages) and to never give away any personal information about themselves.

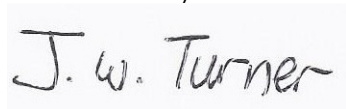
We have also spent time discussing their use of social media and instant messaging. As a school, we often spend time with groups of children discussing messages that have been sent on mobile phones and other devices. As you will be aware, any messages sent via these can be saved by the person they have been sent to and can never be deleted permanently. We have talked to the children at length about really thinking about how messages can be interpreted differently to how they were meant.

Please do take the opportunity to talk to your children about the sessions they have done at school this week and talk to them about how to ensure they stay safe and about ensuring any messages they send are appropriate.

This advice from NSPCC is very informative and helpful and can be found in more detail at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>:

1. Have the conversation early and often
2. Explore online together
3. Know who your child is talking to online
4. Set rules and agree boundaries
5. Make sure that content is age-appropriate
6. Use parental controls to filter
7. Check they know how to use privacy settings and reporting tools

Yours sincerely



Mr John Turner
Associate Head Of School
On behalf of Middlefield Primary Academy (Part of the DLPT)