



Dear Parents & Carers,

During the last year we have all faced many changes and challenges in our lives and one major thing that has changed is our relationship with technology. In school alone, we have found ourselves teaching, learning and connecting via various different platforms on the internet. Whilst the benefits of using the internet are enormous, there are also many risks that children and young people using the internet may face, particularly if they are unsupervised.

Now, more than ever, it is crucial that we do everything we can to support our children in staying safe online. In school, we will continue to develop our e-safety curriculum, promote conversations about staying safe online and ensure the children know what to do if they have a problem. We also hope that, as social distancing restrictions in school begin to relax, our Cyber Ambassadors will be able to resume the work that they began in the Autumn term. (Information about our Cyber Ambassadors can be found on the next page of this letter.)

There are also many things that you can do to support your child/children at home. This letter outlines key things for you to think about and provides many links to websites that you may find helpful. Please see these below:

Review security and safety settings

Many devices, apps and websites have a 'parental controls' section which will enable you to ensure your child is engaging with age-appropriate content. Guidance on specific settings to look out for can be found at: [Internet Matters](#). In addition to this, guidance for how to set up parental controls on mobile devices can be found at: [Google Play Help](#).

Talk about online activity

Talking regularly with your child about what they are doing online and who they are talking to is incredibly beneficial. You will know more about what your child is getting up to, your child will feel more relaxed about being online and they will be more likely to come and speak to you if they have any worries. Guidance on these conversations can be found at: [NSPCC](#).

Manage the amount of time spent online

Managing screen time can be incredibly difficult, especially as screen time looks different depending on the user; some may be completing homework and connecting with friends whereas others may spend the whole time gaming. This blog will take you through some useful points to consider so that you can make an informed choice on what is right for you and your whole family: [How much screen time is okay for my child?](#)

Additional helpful sources that may support you at home:

[Parentzone](#) – Provides an extensive list of apps or games that your child may be engaging with (such as Fortnite, Minecraft and Roblox) and support for how you can safeguard your child against potential hazards within these.

[NSPCC](#) – Provides additional information about the risks of online games and how to support your child.

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) – Provides online safety tips and advice specifically for young children aged 3-11 years old.

[Online Safety Guidance](#) – Advice and resources provided from Hampshire County Council.

[Digital Parenting Magazine](#) – Published by Vodafone, this monthly magazine is free to order without any postage cost and covers a wide range of e-safety topics every month.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. I hope it is useful in supporting you at home. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and I will endeavour to support you further.

Kindest Regards,
Vada Gospel
(Computing Leader)

Cyber Ambassadors

In the Autumn term, I was very fortunate to work alongside the Police and Crime Commissioner team and introduce their Cyber Ambassador scheme to our school. The scheme is a peer-led initiative which aims to support children and young people with online safety. A group of nine children were selected from across KS1 and completed their training to learn how to support and educate their peers in staying safe online. Unfortunately, social distancing and national lockdown restrictions have limited opportunities for our Cyber Ambassadors to work together. However, we are now in a position where our Cyber Ambassadors can begin to work alongside one another again and resume their role in supporting their peers with e-safety matters.