

Tickhill Estfeld Primary School



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Dear Parents

Tuesday 6th February is Safer Internet Day. In school during this week we will be working with all pupils to focus on the very important safety messages and steps that they must take to ensure that they are safe online. It is a constant theme throughout the year. The internet and technology are powerful learning tools and we always take the opportunity to promote safe use whenever using technology in school. By celebrating the positive power of the internet, the 2018 Safer Internet Day theme of “**Create, Connect and Share Respect: a better internet starts with you**” encourages everyone to join the global movement, to participate, to make the most of the internet’s potential to bring people together.

Information for Parents

We would also like to make parents aware that there will be a presentation for parents on the subject of Internet Safety at St. Mary’s School on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 3.45pm.

We shall be there and parents and carers of both schools are very welcome to attend. Even if you have attended similar sessions in the past please do come along. There are always new technologies and platforms coming online and the leader for the session, DMBC’s e-safety Officer, Amy Simister, is extremely knowledgeable and informative.

Children and Social Media

Recently the Children’s Commissioner for England published the report, “Life in Likes”, on the effects of social media on 8-to-12-year-olds, which examines the way children use social media and its effects on their wellbeing. “Life in Likes” fills a gap in research showing how younger children use platforms which social media companies say are not designed for them. Whilst most social media sites have an official age limit of 13 years, some research has suggested $\frac{3}{4}$ of 10-to-12 year olds have a social media account.

While 8-10s use social media in a playful, creative way – often to play games – this changes significantly as children’s social circles expand as they grow older. This report shows that many Year 7 children are finding social media hard to manage and becoming over-dependent on ‘likes’ and ‘comments’ for social validation. They are also adapting their offline behaviour to fit an online image, and becoming increasingly anxious about ‘keeping up appearances’ as they get older.



The report can be found on the link below:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/life-in-likes/>

If you would like any guidance or further information on this or any other aspect such eg. gaming, messaging etc. Amy Simister will be able to give guidance at an age-appropriate level for your child at the presentation on the 7th February. We hope to see you there.

Yours sincerely

Miss Diane Risley