



★ Parent & Carer Newsletter ★ Spring 2018

In this edition: Safer Internet Day is on February 6th 2018. This year, the message is "Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you" ★ **Fake News: can you believe everything you see online?** ★ In the middle pages, test out your online behavior and complete our family online safety contract ★ **Back page: parent power - you asked - we are covering it - join our dog poo watch and help keep our city cleaner and safer**



★ Can you believe everything you see online?

Fake news is in the news, with more and more concern about how we can know whether what we read or see online is true. This can be even more difficult for children. In a recent report, Ofcom - the UK's communications regulator - found that over a quarter of 8-15 year olds believe that if a website has been listed by Google, it can be trusted, while around one in ten don't think about whether the results can be trusted. But encouragingly, around half of 8-17 year olds are able to recognise that not all websites can be trusted to be true.

A study by The UK Safer Internet Centre found that videos are particularly powerful; almost half of children and young people said they are much more likely to trust something if they have seen an image or video of it.

They found that although 70% of 8-17 year olds recognised that images and videos can be

misleading and don't always tell the full story, just a third said they find it easy to check if the images and videos they find online are truthful.

Encouraging children to question what they see online is a really important skill, so making time to talk about their online time can really make a difference.



★ Anti-bullying week drawing competition winners

We had some wonderful entries for our drawing competition, but the two overall winners were Poppy from Carlton Hill Primary (left hand image) and Ali from Blatchington Mill (right hand image) - congratulations! We hope that you are all enjoying your Safety Net school dates calendar poster which features the winning entries!

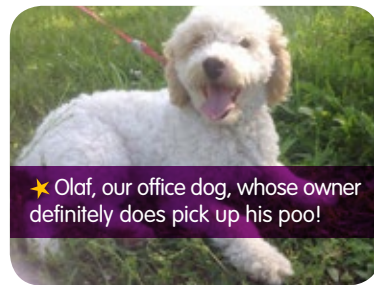


★ Dog Poo – join our campaign to keep Brighton & Hove a cleaner and safer place for children & families

You told us that dog poo on our streets and in public spaces is a major cause of irritation and concern for many parents, including dog owners. There is nothing worse than having to constantly look out for dog poo to prevent you or your children stepping, or even falling into it. One parent reported: "We live about a ten minute walk from school and I recently counted 13 poos on the way!"

Obviously it is the dog that does the poo, but it is unfair to blame them for doing their business as it is the responsibility of the dog owner to ensure that mess is cleaned up. Although there are a lot of owners who do clear up, there are still some who feel it is unhygienic or not something they should have to do. However it is a real health hazard to leave it on pavements, in parks and playgrounds, or even on the beach and it is also against the law.

Did you know? Dog poo can be a cause of toxocariasis, a bacteria which can cause fever and stomach pain, and in rare cases, blindness. Young children can be particularly vulnerable because of their weaker immune systems.



★ Olaf, our office dog, whose owner definitely does pick up his poo!

★ It is estimated that there are 54 million pet owners in the UK. The most popular pet is a dog, with 24% of people owning one. (Statista.com)

★ The RSPCA estimate that there are around 8.5 million dogs in in the UK.

★ It is estimated that the dog population of the UK produces 900 tonnes of poo every day. The same weight as 71 double decker buses!

The Law: The Control of Dogs Ordinance (1992) applies to all public places and states that an offence is committed if a person in charge of a dog fails to clean up his faeces (poo). It is no defence to claim ignorance of the dog's actions, the law, or not to have a device available to remove the poo. This could result in a prosecution and fine of up to £300. You can report dog poo to Brighton & Hove City Council's environmental team, or through the gov.uk website or through www.fixmystreet.com who will report to your local council on your behalf.

HOW TO WASH HANDS

- 1 WATER AND SOAP
- 2 PALM TO PALM
- 3 BETWEEN FINGERS
- 4 FOCUS ON THUMBS
- 5 BACK OF HANDS
- 6 FOCUS ON WRISTS

★ **Did you know?** In Worcester, a clever dog owner has developed a way of powering street lights using dog poo alone! Around 10 bags of poo are enough to power the light for two hours each evening. The hope is that the lights inspire people to see that even dog poo has value, as well as encourage people to pick up their dog waste.

★ If you have a question or would like to make a suggestion for future editions, email newsletter@safety-net.org.uk. For an online edition, visit www.safety-net.org.uk or www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk