



COWLEY HILL

learning for tomorrow every day

Tuesday 8th May 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Use of social media / internet

We are aware that an increasing number of our children are using a variety of social media websites and apps such as WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat. The official age for using these sites varies from 13 to 18 years of age and we would strongly recommend that children do not have unsupervised access to them.

All of the social media sites and apps are accessible via laptops, tablets, mobile phones and games consoles. We speak to the children regularly about E-safety and the importance of staying safe online through our coverage of the computing curriculum. Children are increasingly accessing many of these sites and applications and on occasion incidents occur which are then brought into school - this has an impact on relationships and the children's learning. Whilst we would recommend that children do not use these sites / apps, please ensure that if your children use them, they are adequately supervised.

We hold an annual E-safety information meeting in the Autumn term and look forward to seeing you then. In the meantime, on the back of this letter, are a variety of websites which aim to support and help you and your family to stay safe online. In addition to this we will be reminding the children how to keep safe online during an assembly. Please can we ask that you speak to your child to discuss their current use of the internet and apps on their electronic devices, including mobile phones and games consoles with online access.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Hood
Headteacher.

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Useful Web Links

This selection of websites provides advice, guidance and support about Online Safety. These websites are suitable for parents, teachers and anyone working with children and young people.

Bullying

www.bullying.co.uk - One in five young people have experienced bullying by text message or via email.

www.beatbullying.org - This web site gives advice for children and parents on bullying.

www.childnet-int.org - A website that shares the issues of online child protection and children's safe and positive use of the internet.

www.childnet-int.org/kia - An online CD guide for parents, KnowITAll

Childnet have produced a new guide 'New Music, Film, TV and the Internet' which can be downloaded from: www.childnet.com/downloading Helping you to stay safe and legal when enjoying entertainment on the internet or via a mobile device. It is also available in many languages. For further information about using music and not infringing copyright visit: www.pro-music.org

www.ceop.gov.uk - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre works across the UK and maximises international links to deliver a holistic approach that combines police powers with the dedicated expertise of business sectors, government, specialist charities and other interested organisations - all focused on tackling child sex abuse wherever and whenever it happens.

www.ecrime-action.co.uk This website is presented to help ADULTS and CHILDREN alike, with any form of on-line or technology-driven antisocial behaviour (commonly referred to as cyber bullying).

www.saferinternet.org Promotes internet safety.

www.saferinternet.org/web/guest/home Promotes safe, responsible use of the Internet and mobile devices to young people.

www.internetwatch.co.uk - information on reporting illegal content

www.kidsmart.org.uk - Kidsmart is an award winning practical internet safety programme website for schools, young people, parents, and agencies, produced by the children's internet charity Childnet International.

Thinkuknow

www.thinkuknow.co.uk - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre has website which has been designed and written specifically for children of different ages to ensure children stay safe on the Internet.