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Friday 8th February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another excellent week at Cavendish Juniors with Year 6 using descriptive language, Year 5 producing fantastic online safety work, Year 4 creating a detailed information text on our school and Year 3 practising their drama skills using playscripts. We have also invested in a brand new Maths scheme called PowerMaths. Your children have been provided with special Maths books that they can write in, and, even though this is in its infancy, it has been well received so far.

Online Safety Week

As I said in my previous newsletter, this week has been all about online safety. We have had assemblies, workshop type lessons and a lot of circle time to discuss our own experiences and how we can strengthen our understanding and safety whilst online. As I said to all our children on Monday, this week is not about stopping using the technology, or being afraid of it. This week is about having the knowledge and understanding to use this technology well, and know what to do if something does go wrong.

Thank you for supporting our 't-shirt day' yesterday. It was lovely to see how proud the children were with all of the positive comments written on them. In assembly, we spoke about the power of words and how, when used appropriately, they can make you feel proud and confident about yourself. We also spoke about how public we felt these words were and that we couldn't hide them-a lot like posting words online. We spoke about cyber bullying and how open and public this was and what to do if an incident did ever occur.

I have attached a short information letter today for your reference. It explains what you, as parents, can do to support your child when they are online. Please don't hesitate to come in and ask us if you do have any further questions or concerns.

Finally, there will also be a very special information text attached to this newsletter. This is your child's information text based on what they have learnt this week. We hope it informs you about online safety and gives you an idea of the quality of work your children produce daily-we are all very proud of the pupils that choose to come to Cavendish.

Coffee mornings

A quick reminder that our first coffee morning of the year will be on **Tuesday 12th February at 9 a.m.** You are all warmly invited to share your opinion and ideas about the school. As I have said multiple times, your opinion counts!

Reminder

Next Friday is an INSET day. The last day of this half term will be on Thursday 14th February.

Bug Club

Another quick reminder that there are still places in our Bug Club. This is where children get to meet, handle and learn about a variety of different minibeasts. This club will be running after school on Mondays **3.30 – 4.15 p.m.** for 6 weeks starting on **Monday 25th February**, and costs **£24.00** for the 6 sessions. For a copy of the letter, or any more information, please contact the school office.

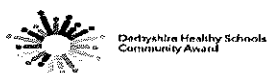
Attendance

This week, our attendance was 97.41%. This is above the national average!

N. Marlow

Miss Nicola Marlow

Headteacher



Online Safety top tips

Make informed choices:

In order to protect children online, it is vital that we fully understand the capabilities and make informed decisions about new games, apps and devices, before providing them to children.

- Do your research before purchasing a new device or game for your child; find out what other parents think, search for parental advice online and ask the shop about pre-installed apps or tools.
- Always check the PEGI age rating and descriptors on games before buying them for your child and carefully consider whether the content is appropriate for them.
- Take time to find out whether the device or game has an online component or allows your child to access to the internet, which allows them to connect with others online.
- Familiarise yourself with the privacy, safety and security tools on new devices; ensure you are in a position to teach your child how to make their accounts private and how to block and report other people online.

Use the parent guides and shopper's checklists from UK Safer Internet Centre to help you ask the right questions and make informed choices when buying new technology:

www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology

Setting boundaries:

Much like the 'real world', parents need to set boundaries for children online; this provides them with a clear understanding of the limits, expectations and consequences of their behaviour.

- Discuss and agree as a family, how the internet and technology will be used in your home; consider nominating 'tech-free' areas or times, such as: your child's bedroom or dinner time.
- Discuss online boundaries too; let children use the lessons they learn in school to tell you what they think is/isn't acceptable for them to do online and adapt these messages into your own family rules.

Take a look at the conversation starter ideas and family agreement template available from Childnet International: www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation

Filters and Parental Controls:

Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to illegal, unwanted or unpleasant content online, but there are some simple steps you can take at home to help minimise this risk.

- Make sure you install anti-virus software, filters and parental controls on your child's device before giving it to them.
- Ensure that you are role-modelling good behaviour by using strong passwords yourself; make them difficult to guess and don't share them with your children.

- Remember that blocks and filters are not 100% effective and you can't rely on them alone to protect your children, so remind them to tell you if they see something upsetting online.

Take a look at the interactive guide to parental controls available from Internet Matters: www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide/

Talk to your children:

Take an active interest in your child's online life and engage in the digital world with them.

- Let your children teach you about their online world and how they use technology; playing new games and exploring websites together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour online.
- Make sure your children know that you are safe and approachable; remind them that they can tell you if something happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable, without being told off or punished.

You can find more advice about talking to you child about online safety from CEOP: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/having-a-conversation-with-your-child/

Other useful websites for parents/carers:

- www.net-aware.org.uk- NSPCC guide to the most popular apps and websites available online.
- www.thinkuknow.co.uk- CEOP website for advice and reporting abuse online.
- www.iwf.org.uk- Report illegal content online (including indecent images of children).
- www.parentport.org.uk- Report inappropriate content online.
- www.getsafeonline.org- Free up-to-date security and technical advice.

If you would like further support and advice regarding online safety, please contact the school office. Your Designated Safeguarding Leads in school are Miss Marlow and Mrs Laben, who would be happy to help you in any way they can.