12th December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

ONLINE SAFETY – 6L

This week in class, we have been learning about how to be a super digital citizen. We have learned that it is important to be safe, respectful and responsible online. We have designed our own superhero alias that will help us to support others to be safe and respectful online and to help us be SMART. We understand that with great power comes great responsibility, and we hope to help others act responsibly online.

Our first mission is to help you – our friends and family – by teaching you how to be safe, respectful and responsible online.

Yours sincerely,

Class 6L and Mr Lee

Common Sense on Digital Life

What's the Issue?

We may think of our children's online, mobile and technological activities as "digital life", but to them it's just life. In their world, being able to connect and communicate 24/7 from just about any location is normal – and expected! Between Reception and Year 6, children go through rapid growth in learning. From playing games on their parents' mobiles, to learning how to point and click a mouse, to navigating online by themselves, children this age are participating in a connected culture.

Why Does It Matter?

The stakes are high because our children's technological abilities can be greater than their maturity and judgement. Having unrestricted access to information and people can result in gaining a wealth of information and experiences, but also access to inappropriate content. Just as children learn to eat properly, swim safely or drive a car carefully, they need to know how to live in the digital world responsibly and respectfully. Their success depends on their abilities to use digital media to create, collaborate and communicate well with others. Those who master these skills in using digital tools will benefit from the digital world's awesome power.

common sense says

Use bookmarks and safe search. Teach your child to bookmark his or her favourite sites. This way, your child is less likely to go somewhere online you don't want. Use safe search options on web browsers, such as Pixabay, to make sure that your child can search safely.

Consider using filtering and blocking software. Some parents find these tools to be useful to help protect younger children from accessing inappropriate content.

Have older siblings help. Have your older children help teach your younger children how to be responsible and safe online. Let the older ones know that you want them to help you protect their little brothers or sisters online.

Share wisdom. Children often don't understand how their actions affect others. We do. We teach children to choose their words carefully, play nicely with others and respect their teachers. Now, we have to extend those lessons to a vast, invisible world. As a parent, you can translate your values into the digital world and help children understand the implications of their actions.

Seek balance. If our children are going to thrive with digital media, we must balance the negative with the positive, privacy with protection. As our children grow, they need more independence and privacy. However, parents have to be sure their children know how to be safe and responsible before letting them loose.

Keep an open mind. We don't see the world the way our children do. We don't help our children when we judge their lives through the lens of a non-digital world. It's important for us to understand that our children will spend much of their lives in a connected world, where everyone creates and communicates. We need to help them to enjoy it and learn from it.
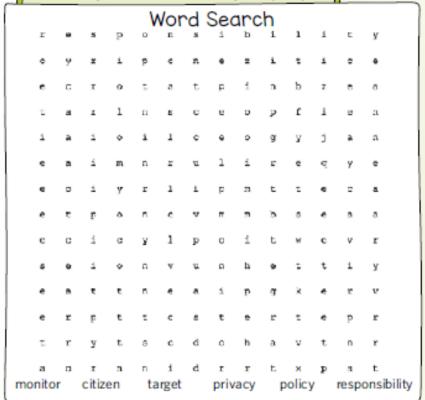
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TALKING SAFELY ONLINE / TIP SHEET / DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP / REV DATE 2016
www.commonsense.org/educators | CREATIVE COMMONS: ATTRIBUTION-NONCOMMERCIAL-SHAREALIKE

Super Digital Citizen 💬 👥

Word Search

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r e s p o n s i b i l i t y
e y z i p c n e z i t i e c
e c r o t a t p f n h b r e
t a r l n c e o p f l e n
i a i o i c e o g y j a n
e a i m n r u l i r e q y e
e o i y r l i p n t r e z e
e t p o n c v m m o s e s o
c c i c y l p o i t w c v r
s e i o n v u n b e t i y
e a t n e a i p q k e r v
e r p t c s t e r t e p r
t r y t s c d o h a v t n r
a n r a n i d r r t x p a t
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monitor   citizen   target   privacy   policy   responsibility

✳ DO YOU REMEMBER …
How you can help others be good digital citizens?

1. Family Activity

Design a "super digital citizen" word collage. First, list words that describe how a super digital citizen acts. (What does it mean to act safely? How do digital citizens behave responsibly? What kind of behaviour is respectful online?) Then, see if you can find your keywords in a newspaper or magazine and cut them out for your collage. Add in any keywords you can't find by writing them in with a marker.

2. Tech It Up!

Create a super-digital-citizen word cloud online by using a site such as ABCYa (www.abcya.com/word_clouds.htm). Save your word cloud as a JPG (.jpg) or a screenshot, and then upload the image as a screensaver or as wallpaper.

3. Common Sense Says …

A digital citizen is someone who acts safely, responsibly, and respectfully online. Just as superheroes take action when someone needs help or when they see something that doesn't seem right, super digital citizens jump in to help protect themselves and others on the Internet.