

Head Teacher: Mr D Barrow

Mortimer Road
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 1FS
01926 854450
www.st-johns.warwickshire.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

ONLINE SAFETY – YEAR 1

In Year 1, we have been learning about all the different ways to send messages. We have learnt how to send an email. We sent an email from Miss Cossins' computer through to Miss Smyth's computer, and we received a reply. We have learnt that if we receive messages from people we do not know, we should never reply and always tell a grown up.

From 1C, 1S, Miss Cossins and Miss Smyth

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.

Sending Email

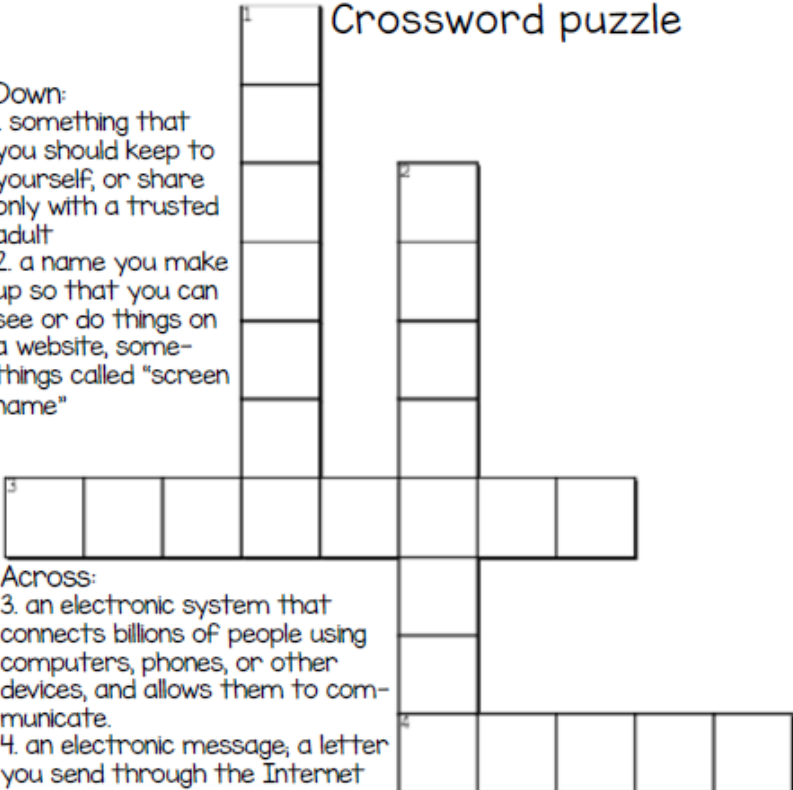
* DID YOU KNOW ...

204,000,000 emails are sent every minute of the day!

Crossword puzzle

Down:
1. something that you should keep to yourself, or share only with a trusted adult
2. a name you make up so that you can see or do things on a website, some- things called "screen name"

Across:
3. an electronic system that connects billions of people using computers, phones, or other devices, and allows them to communicate.
4. an electronic message, a letter you send through the Internet



* WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What happens when you send an email?

1. Family Activity

The Internet can connect people everywhere. With a family member, think of someone who lives far away, and come up with an email you might want to send to that person. When you write or type out your message, make sure that you have the recipient (the person to whom you want to send it), the sender of the email (you!), and the subject of the email (the subject of the email goes at the top and tells the person who receives the email what it's about. For example, if you're sending an email about your vacation this weekend, the subject might be "Our Vacation").

* DO YOU REMEMBER ...

How you can send messages to people through the Internet?

2. Tech It Up!

With a family member's help, use the Internet to send your email. Don't forget to type in the email address and subject, and be sure to sign the email so the recipient knows who it's from!

3. Common Sense Says ...

Email is a way to send messages through the Internet. Just like when you talk to people or share messages offline, you should be careful about talking to strangers online. Only use email to write to people you already know, and always make sure you have a parent's (or teacher's) permission!