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Dear Parents and Carers,

ONLINE SAFETY – YEAR 2

This half-term in online safety, we have been learning how to stay safe when using different websites. We have thought about what the subject of the website is and whether the pictures and writing are appropriate for our age. We have thought carefully about what to do when you find a website that looks nice, but you are not sure whether it is suitable for you. We know that we must tell a trusted adult if we are unsure or if we see something upsetting. We know that we mustn't be using websites like Facebook because we are too young. To keep us safe when using different websites, we must make sure that our trusted adults know which sites we are going on.

From 2B, 2T, Miss Baker and Miss Tonge

Common Sense on Evaluating Websites



What's the Issue?

The internet is bursting with information. Some of it's correct, some of it's questionable, and some of it is just plain wrong. The internet is typically the first place young people look when they begin researching a report or are searching for information on their favourite topic. As you know, not everything they find on the web can be trusted, and skills they learn about research in primary school will provide them with a foundation for their future.

Why Does It Matter?

Anyone can publish on the internet, so not all sites are equally trustworthy. Teens have the ability to be sceptical, but younger children tend to believe what they read and accept it as truth. When children find sources online that aren't of high quality, they may use incorrect information, get only part of the story and, worst of all, miss the opportunity to learn.

When children use a website for their research, they should make sure it's worthy of their trust. Fortunately, there are ways to evaluate the trustworthiness of the site. Along with choosing sites with good design and at the right reading level, children should evaluate the substance and content of the material.

common sense says

Ask questions to evaluate the trustworthiness of sites. You can help your child evaluate the quality of a website with a little detective work.

- *Who wrote this?* Check to make sure the author or organisation is credible by looking at their title, expertise and background.
- *What is the source of the information?* Does the site come from a well-known organisation or news source?
- *How does this compare to other information?* When evaluating websites, it's important to look at multiple sites so that you can compare information.
- *When was this updated?* Has the site been updated recently? If not, move on. *What is the site linked to?* Was the site linked from another webpage that you trust? If so, that's a good sign.

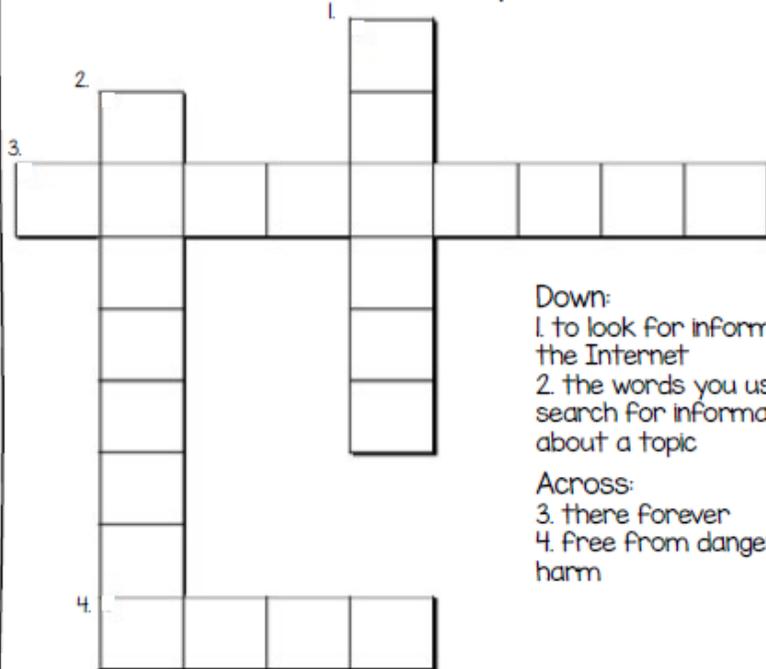
Are advertisers targeting you? Help your children spot when advertisers are trying to get their attention as they search. Teach your children to question what the ads are saying.

Sites I Like

* DID YOU KNOW ...

The first video shared on YouTube was called "Me at the zoo." It was filmed at the San Diego Zoo.

Crossword puzzle



Down:

- 1. to look for information on the Internet
- 2. the words you use to search for information about a topic

Across:

- 3. there forever
- 4. free from danger or harm

* WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What are some things that make a site good for you?

1. Family Activity

Think of your favorite website or place you've visited online. Draw a picture that shows what you like about the website. When you're done, share your picture with a family member.

* DO YOU REMEMBER ...

How you can tell if a website is right for you?

2. Tech It Up!

[Print a small/modified version of the Rate My Site Handout on the family activity sheet]. Work with a parent or other family member to visit and rate two websites you've never visited before. One website should be chosen by you; the other should be chosen by your family member. How do your ratings compare?

3. Common Sense Says ...

Just as we all have different interests, we all have different websites we like to explore and visit! As you explore websites you like, remember: If you think a website might not be meant for kids, go find an adult to help you!