

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 – 1C

In 1C, we have been talking about the importance of staying safe on the internet. We visited the San Diego Zoo website and watched the animals live. The internet can help us visit faraway places and learn lots of new things. We learnt that the internet can take us to amazing places, but we must ask a grown up before we search for anything on the internet.

From 1C and Miss Cossins

Common Sense on Talking Safely Online



What's the Issue?

Kids love connecting with others online. Most young people talk online only with their friends and family. But as a parent, you might be concerned that a stranger with bad intent (predator) could contact your child.

Predatory behaviour is when people contact your child on the internet (mostly through instant messaging, chat rooms or social networking sites) and attempt to “groom” your child for a relationship. These people try to win children’s trust by hiding their true identities. They may try to get kids into creepy or dangerous situations by pretending to have similar interests, giving them compliments and letting them talk about anything they want. They typically tell children to keep the friendship secret, and they may even threaten kids if they tell anybody. As the relationship develops, the predator may send pictures, ask a child to send them pictures and then ask to meet face-to-face.

Why Does It Matter?

Teaching your child to be alert about how predators groom their targets is crucial to keeping your child safe. With very small children, it is best if you are present when they are online. At this age, you may choose to block your children from talking online, or create strict rules for them to follow about who they can talk to. For older primary school children, you may choose to give them more freedom after first discussing how to stay safe online.

common sense says

Discuss responsible online behaviour. Establish rules for appropriate instant messaging and chatting online and explain that you’re using those rules because you care about their safety. You may want to involve an older sibling who can model good online behaviour and can stay involved in their younger siblings’ online lives.

Establish rules for who’s okay to talk to. Online talk should generally be with people your children know, like family and friends.

Set boundaries for what topics are okay to discuss. Children shouldn’t answer questions online that make them feel uncomfortable. They also shouldn’t talk about adult topics with strangers.

Make sure your child feels safe telling a trusted adult. If something creepy or inappropriate happens online, children need to know that they won’t get in trouble if they tell an adult they trust. Also, avoid banning them from the computer. Children are less likely to tell parents when they experience a problem on the computer if they think that they won’t be allowed to use it as a result.

Remind your children not to give strangers private information. Children should never give out their name, address, school, phone number, email, pictures or anything that could identify who they are.

Block, ignore or leave. Most kids know to brush off unwanted contact. Encourage this behaviour.

Look for warning signs. Does your child seem withdrawn, emotionally distant, spend endless hours online or seem to be hiding something? The children who get sucked into inappropriate online relationships often show warning signs. They might be hiding an online relationship they don’t want you to know about. If you think this might be happening, ask your child about it!

Going Places Safely

* DID YOU KNOW ...

"www" stands for "World Wide Web." The World Wide Web was invented more than 25 years ago!

With a parent or family member, use an online picture dictionary such as the Photographic Dictionary (<http://photographicdictionary.com/animals>) to search by letter for more information about your animal!

* WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What rules should children follow when they want to visit a new place online?

1. Family Activity

There are so many exciting places to go online! You can visit faraway spots, explore a zoo, or even travel to outer space!

Draw a picture of one place you would like to visit through the Internet. At the bottom of your picture, have a parent help you write the three safety rules for going places online.

*** DO YOU REMEMBER ...**
How you can stay safe when you explore new places on the computer?

2. Tech It Up!

With a family member, use the Internet to visit the place that you drew.

3. Common Sense Says ...

Remember the three safety rules about going places online:

- 1). Always ask your parent (or teacher) first.
- 2). Only talk to people you know.
- 3). Stick to places that are just right for you.