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Dear Parents and Carers,

ONLINE SAFETY – YEAR 4

In Year 4, we have been thinking about what makes a community and how we must look after our community and what this means when we are online. We talked about the responsibilities we have to the community, to our friends and family and to ourselves (which was a bit trickier). We all know now that we must protect our passwords, keep private information private, get permission to post photos, and we feel very strongly about standing up to cyberbullying. We are responsible online citizens!

From 4T and Miss Taylor

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.

Rings of Responsibility

* DID YOU KNOW ...

People online who post hurtful comments intended only to upset other people are called "trolls." Trolls are definitely NOT practising good digital citizenship!

Unjumble to find the hidden words

1. rslentnspioby _____

2. piarasilgm _____

3. citaoitn _____

4. cmniumtoy _____

5. diagitl ciztien _____

6. ehitcs _____

* WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is there a responsibility you have to others both online and offline?

* DO YOU REMEMBER ...

What kinds of responsibilities a good digital citizen has?

1. Family Activity

Make your very own Rings of Responsibility. Draw three circles [note: add diagram] on a piece of paper or on a paper plate. Label the innermost circle "Self," the middle circle "Friends and Family," and the outer circle "Larger Community." With a family member, collect photographs or magazine images that represent the types of responsibilities you have within each ring. You can paste or tape the printed images onto your collage.

2. Tech It Up!

Use a digital camera to go on a photo journey and take pictures of the items for your collage! When you're finished, you can either print them out and make your collage on paper or you can use Pixlr Express on a smartphone or tablet.

3. Common Sense Says ...

As a digital citizen, you're a member of a worldwide community linked by the Internet. Being a good digital citizen means taking care of your responsibilities to yourself, to your friends and family, and to the larger community! Visiting only sites that are safe and appropriate is a responsibility you have to yourself. Never sharing a friend's private information or your family's address is an example of a responsibility you have to friends and family. Never calling people names online is a responsibility you have to the larger community.