

Internet Safety



We have recently had Dan Hawbrook working with us. He is the E-Safety Officer for Lincolnshire and has been in to talk to all year groups about safe use of the Internet.

Here is some of the information he gave us that we thought might be useful for you too:



Online gaming:

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is the system used to ensure that entertainment content, such as films, DVDs and computer games, are clearly labelled by age according to the content they contain.

- The rating shows suitability for an age, not difficulty.
- Children should only be playing games that have a PEGI rating suitable for their age. This is particularly important if the game has an online element, as children will end up playing against and having conversations with adults who you do not know and who could be using inappropriate language.
- Children were asked to remember that people they 'meet' in these games are strangers and should be treated as such. They should not give out any personal details at all and if they feel uncomfortable about something that has been said, they should tell an adult immediately.

Facebook and Social Networking sites:

There are social network sites specifically designed for children that have good security features to ensure safety e.g. Moshi Monsters, Club Penguin.



- By US law, children under 13 years old should not be using Facebook. Their profiles and all information and photos would be immediately deleted without warning, if Facebook found out they are underage.
- Using a parent's Facebook page is considered a safer option as then their posts and conversations can be monitored. It is a parent's responsibility to police their child's Internet use.
- Children again were asked to remember that making friends with anyone they do not know could open themselves up to risk. They should treat people as strangers – be polite but do not answer any questions that are too personal.
- They should not post any personal information on any social networking site.
- Anyone making inappropriate comments should be blocked and reported using the sites security systems.
- On Facebook in particular, privacy settings should be set at their highest level to keep information safe. Everything posted on the Internet becomes public and the consequences of what is written should be carefully considered – this goes for adults too!

Cyber-bullying:

Anything that makes you feel unsafe and worried should be reported. Children were encouraged to tell parents, teachers, friends or anyone else they trust if they have a problem.

There is also the CEOP link on most websites to refer children to help.



If you are concerned about how your child uses the Internet and would like advice, please feel free to come in and talk to Mrs Simpson who can offer help and pass any questions on to Dan if needed. There is also a good website: www.thinkuknow.co.uk to support children and parents in this difficult area.