



Dear Parents/carers

5th December 2014

Staying safe Online

I am sure that you will recognise how important it is for parents to understand ways in which children can use the internet and social media safely. Our Key Stage 2 children have been writing poems and raps about cyber-bullying and how to stop it as part of anti-bullying week.

I thought it would be helpful to write and let you know of some of the resources available to children and parents and carers which will help to guide you through these sometimes difficult areas. One website which I would suggest you visit is run by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Command of the National Crime Agency. It is at www.thinkuknow.co.uk.

It has different sections for different age groups of children as well as sections for parents/carers and teachers. For younger children, parents or carers will need to go onto the site with their children. The children's sections are tailored to the respective age groups, so for younger children, films and games are used to teach them key messages, such as the fact that they may encounter strangers on line as well as in person. For older children, the focus shifts to relationships issues, use of social media, sexual relationships and the impact of their online activity on their individual 'digital footprint'. The section for parents and carers provides useful ways of broaching the subject with children of any age.

There are many other sites providing essential information, including www.getsafeonline.org and www.childnet-int.org. We will put a full list of these on the Greenway website.

Kind regards

Katharine Ellwood



