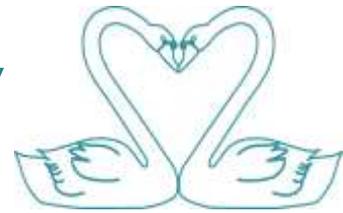


Thorplands Primary School & Nursery

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16th January 2016

Dear Parents & Carers of Year 5&6 children

Re: Recent advice from CEOP

The world of digital communication is constantly changing and updating. This brings great advantages but can also bring new risks. Recent advice from CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) highlights the potential dangers involved in some recent advances in technology; we all need to be aware of the following so we can ensure our children remain safe when on-line.

Text/Voice/Video Apps

You no longer have to have a SIM card or even a telephone to have a telephone number. Apps such as goText and ooVoo allow text and calls to be made from any device that can access the internet. This can be a phone without a SIM, a tablet, a games console etc. Potentially your child could video chat with anyone in the world from their tablet.

Chat Rooms

These are not a new thing on the internet but there are new sites and apps are popping up all the time. For example, antichat, which is available on Google Play and the App Store, is an anonymous messaging app which advertises 'Talk about anything with strangers. Meet new friends, ask questions. Share secrets or just kill time. Nobody will judge you, as nobody can find out your real name.' Messages are encrypted and then deleted. This anonymity results in the site being used for very explicit messages and also to arrange meetings. Anyone can access this site.

Internet Safety Day is approaching however, it is vital that we all keep internet safety at the forefront of our minds all the time. At the end of last year Leicestershire Police released a video, Kayleigh's Love Story. This was the tragic true story, released on the request of her parents, of a 15 year old girl who met a stranger on social media and was then raped and murdered. Grooming does not just happen in cities.



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Your children have are taught about e-safety within school and we work closely with our local police and PCSO's, who have delivered assemblies on e-safety. Please do look on the CEOP website <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Talking to your child, having a calm and open conversation is one way for you and your child to explore what is happening in an honest and supportive way, or arrange a time to speak to a member of staff for further advice on issues or concerns that you may have.

Don't panic or over-worry. Do be vigilant and discuss internet safety with your child.

Kind regards

Madeline Dunckley
Principal