23.3.21

Dear Parents/Carers

Online safety at HISN

In our recent parent survey, 70% of parents were confident their children were safe online. We thought it would be useful to offer this summary of online safety tips and how we teach them and to provide some links to resources for you to use at home and continue these conversations.

Within school, the children only have access to online content on our chromebooks which have protective measures fully embedded and are only accessed with adult supervision. However, we recognise outside of school, children may at times have unauthorised and unaccompanied access to devices including ipads and mobile phones. This means we also teach them skills for when they encounter issues on their own.

EYFS
We teach online safety at an age appropriate level. Stories including Smartie the Penguin and Digiduck (from Childnet.com and the Safer Internet Organisation) are used to facilitate conversations about internet safety across Early Years. The principle messages we teach are:
- Only use devices with parent/caregiver permission
- Ask for permission before you access a new or different Website
- Tell your parent/caregiver if anything upsets or confuses you

Key Stage 1
As the children progress to Years 1 and 2, we recap on this prior learning and explore more complex online safety issues as we are aware that children may become more exposed to online games and perhaps social media interactions (although age restrictions should prevent this). In Year 1, children are taught about the SMART principles for online safety and all classrooms have a poster to remind children of their importance. In Year 1, we also expose children to new online safety vocabulary and its meaning including the words 'privacy' and 'personal information'.
Through exploration of stories and scenarios, we discuss that private information about yourself should not be shared online (even if it means not winning a prize for example) and that photographs should not be shared as children cannot be sure who they are in contact with (unless given permission by a parent/caregiver).

Additional key messages the children take away are:
- Do not click on any messages or download anything online without asking for permission
- Do not communicate with anyone online without permission.

In Year 2, we explore cyberbullying and what this might look or feel like and how the children can tackle it. Through scenario discussions, we ensure children understand that being cruel or hurtful in the online world is no different to behaving in that way in real life and has the same impact.
Through discussion, we explore what children might do if they experience this and use language such as feeling sad, hurt or confused. We design our lessons to ensure children have confidence to take positive action and understand how to be a good friend online too.

The main message we teach is for children to tell a parent or trusted adult if someone contacts them and upsets them. The children also learn how to research the internet safely and discuss the reliability of information on the internet.

We hope you as parents/carers can carry forward these messages and build on them with your children but appreciate not all of you may feel equipped to do so. As soon as we can safely do so we will run a workshop in school for parents to attend with a focus on supporting children to access online materials safely.

In the meantime, you may find the following resources helpful:

https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety
https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers
bit.ly/afcsaferathome (paste this into the search bar to access safe internet videos that have been created by the Lead Adviser for Online Services and Safety at Achieving for Children)

Yours Sincerely

Hannah Cranston
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