



THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill
Purley
Surrey
CR8 3YP

23rd October 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you for all of your support this half term. We have had another excellent week with regards to student attendance and our bubbles continue to hold up!

The remainder of this letter is purely about technology. This week our teaching staff received their new I.T hardware and had training on how to run a virtual Parents Evening. Our first virtual Parents Evening will take place on Thursday 19th November. Our virtual Parents Evenings will start on Thursday afternoons this year, which will impact on lessons but it will allow teaching staff to make more appointments with parents/carers – more on this after the half term break. It is also worth noting that there will be a training day for teaching staff on Tuesday 24th November when staff will be trained on a new learning platform. The school is currently consulting with students and staff on the strengths and weaknesses of different platforms. Once a decision has been reached, training will be provided and we will start to transition away from 'Zoom' from the beginning of term 2.

E-Safety: With the continued growth in the digital world and its impact in our everyday lives, it is natural as parents to have concerns and want to support our young people as well as possible. We may have concerns around screen time, use of social media, cyber bullying or access to inappropriate material and ideologies. Staying on top of the latest trends or issues can be challenging and it can be difficult to keep up and feel properly informed. You may sometimes feel that your child has better technical skills than you do, however children and young people still need advice and protection when it comes to managing their lives online. Issues that your child may encounter on the internet will vary depending on their age and online activities. Childnet international has grouped the potential risks presented online into these 4 categories and offers the following advice:

Conduct: Children need to be aware of the impact that their online activity can have on both themselves and other people, and the digital footprint that they create on the internet. It's easy to feel anonymous online and it's important that children are aware of who is able to view, and potentially share, the information that they may have posted. When using the internet, it's important to keep personal information safe and not share it with strangers. Encourage your child to be respectful and responsible when communicating with others online, and to consider how what they share may reflect on them. Discuss with your child the importance of reporting inappropriate conversations, messages, images and behaviours and how this can be done.

Content: Some online content is not suitable for children or young people and may be hurtful or harmful. This is true for content accessed and viewed via social networks, online games, blogs and websites. It's important for children to consider the reliability of online material and be aware that it might not be true

written with a bias. Children may need your help as they begin to assess content in this way. There can be legal consequences for using or downloading copyrighted content without seeking the author's permission.

Commercialism: Young people's privacy and enjoyment online can sometimes be affected by advertising and marketing schemes, which can also mean inadvertently spending money online, for example within apps. Encourage your child to keep their personal information private, learn how to block both pop ups and spam emails, turn off in-app purchasing on devices where possible, and use a family email address when filling in online forms. Make your child aware of scams that may seek to gain access to their accounts, and advise them to be wary in following links or opening attachments in emails that appear to be from organisations such as banks and service providers.

Contact: It is important for children to realise that new friends made online may not be who they say they are and that once a friend is added to an online account, they may be sharing their personal information with them. Regularly reviewing friends lists and removing unwanted contacts is a useful step. Privacy settings online may also allow you to customise the information that each friend is able to access. If you have concerns that your child is, or has been, the subject of inappropriate sexual contact or approach by another person, it's vital that you report it to the police via the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (www.ceop.police.uk). If your child is bullied online, this can also be reported online and offline.

One of the key messages in supporting our young people around e-safety is to maintain an open conversation. By maintaining an open dialogue with your child and encouraging them to talk to you about their internet use, parents can help children access the amazing resources the internet has to offer whilst keeping them safe online. Conversation starter ideas:

1. Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
2. Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
3. Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.
4. Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online?

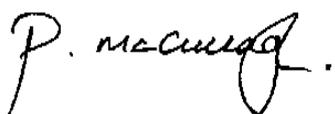
If you would like advice or to find out more about potential issues, there are a number of good websites listed on the next page. As always if you have any concerns around wellbeing and safety please contact the safeguarding team on safeguarding@johnfisherschool.org

Social Media Policy for Parents/Carers: The school now has a social media policy for parents/carers:

[https://www.johnfisherschool.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Social%20Media%20Policy%20for%20Parents\(1\).pdf](https://www.johnfisherschool.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Social%20Media%20Policy%20for%20Parents(1).pdf).

This is to complement the expectations which are in place for students and staff members. Parents/carers are asked to read the policy and consider the key points which are outlined in the document. Sincere thanks to a group of parents/carers who helped shape this.

Yours sincerely,



P E McCullagh
Headteacher

General Online Safety

NSPCC as always is a wealth of knowledge and great source of advice.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

SWGfl are a charity supporting children to benefit from technology, free from harm. They offer a huge range of guides, facts, advice and support regarding the digital world presented to children and young adults.

<https://swgfl.org.uk/online-safety/what-is-online-safety/>

Internet Matters is an excellent website with age related advice and tips on a wide range of potential online issues.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide/>

Social Media Guides.

These websites contain checklists for the use of social media and parent gaming guides as well as the usual advice.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/resources-parents-and-carers>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-social-media-and-the-internet/>

Other potential sources of information, guides and support.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

<http://knowaboutcse.co.uk/parents/>

Reporting harmful content

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline/report-harmful-content>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>