TO: ALL PARENTS

11 February 2014

Dear Parent,

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 11 February 2014

Today is national 'Safer Internet Day'. This week during assemblies and in ICT lessons boys will be reminded about the importance of staying safe on line. As the boys tend to have better IT skills than many parents, I have attached an information sheet which identifies a range of on-line resources which you may find helpful to develop your own skills and to support your son's education.

This week we are emphasising the need for boys to create a positive on-line footprint by thinking about:

CONTACT – Who they interact with on line and how.

CONDUCT – How to behave appropriately on-line.

CONTENT – Think about what is shared and downloaded.

In addition, we are reminding boys to report anything that worries or upsets them on-line. At the same time we are asking them to 'think before you post' material on line. Finally, we are drawing attention to an emerging body of legislation relating to on-line behaviour.

Any help which you can give to support safer use of the internet is appreciated.

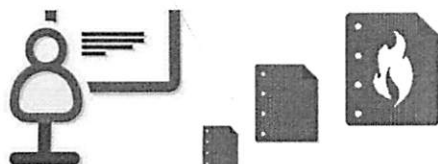Yours sincerely,

F. Hedley
Head Master

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INFORMATION & ONLINE RESOURCES

 Childnet International

1. CHILDNET RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

Childnet: Childnet International is a non-profit organisation working in partnership with others around the world to help make the internet a great and safe place for children. The Childnet website hosts all the online resources detailed below, as well as a number of recommended resources for young people, parents, carers and teachers. www.childnet.com

Childnet resources: On our website you can access resources on a range of topics, including our previously branded Know IT All for Parents interactive guide. The **Parents and Carers** area also contains key advice, information on reporting and detailed information on a range of e-safety topics in the **Hot topics** section. www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers

UK Safer Internet Centre: Childnet is part of the European Commission appointed UK Safer Internet Centre. Together with partners the Internet Watch Foundation and the South West Grid for Learning, we raise awareness about internet safety, develop information materials and resources and organise high profile events such as Safer Internet Day. You can access a range of resources from across the UK, Europe and wider afield at www.saferinternet.org.uk.

Digizen: A website providing information and advice to encourage responsible digital citizenship. It shares advice and guidance on preventing and responding to cyberbullying, including the film '**Let's Fight It Together**' and specific information on social networking. www.digizen.org

KidSMART: This award winning Childnet website is for children, teachers, parents and carers and offers fun games and activities for children alongside effective internet safety advice. Don't forget to check out our new Early Surfers' Zone for 3-7 year olds where you can read the online stories '**The Adventures of Smartie the Penguin**' and '**Digiduck's Big Decision.**' www.kidsmart.org.uk

2. PARENTAL CONTROLS & FILTERING

A Parents' Guide to Technology: The UK Safer Internet Centre has created this guide to answer commonly asked questions and introduce some of the most popular devices used by children, highlighting the safety tools available and empowering parents with the knowledge they need to support their children to use these technologies safely and responsibly. www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech

Childnet's guide to **Online Gaming** also contains helpful advice and information. www.childnet.com/ufiles/Online-gaming.pdf

Internet Parental Controls: The four big internet providers - BT, Sky, Talk Talk and Virgin Media - provide their customers with free parental controls that can be activated at any time. Video tutorials on how to download and use these controls are available on the UK Safer Internet Centre website. www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls
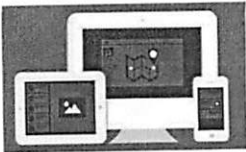
3. COMPUTER PROTECTION & SECURITY

Sorted: This website was produced by young people and looks at the issues of internet security and protection. It gives simple explanations, important information and advice on how to protect a computer from the dangers of programmes such as viruses, phishing scams, spyware and trojans. www.childnet.com/sorted/

Get Safe Online: A government website which focuses on online computer security and protection issues. It contains advice about firewalls, spyware and antivirus protection as well as how to protect children online. www.getsafeonline.org

4. SOCIAL NETWORKING

Young People & Social Networking Sites: Aims to help parents understand the positive and creative ways young people are using social networking spaces (eg Facebook, Twitter and Google+). It also points out the potential risks of using these sites and ways to minimise these risks.
www.childnet.com/ufiles/Young-people-and-social-networking-A.pdf

Facebook Family Safety Centre: Provides useful information and tips for parents and carers, teens and educators. These pages do not require a Facebook account in order to view them. www.facebook.com/safety

Google+ Safety Centre: Provides useful information and tips for parents and carers, teens and educators. These pages do not require a Google account in order to view them. www.google.com/+/safety

Twitter Help Centre - Tips for Parents: Provides useful information and tips for parents and carers. These pages do not require a Twitter account in order to view them. support.twitter.com

5. FILE SHARING & DOWNLOADING

Music, Film, TV and the Internet: Childnet has developed this guide with the music, film and television industries to inform parents, teachers and young people about how to stay safe and legal when enjoying entertainment on the internet or via a mobile device. www.childnet.com/resources/downloading

The Content Map: A UK based website that signposts to legal online retailers of film, TV, music, games, ebooks and sports coverage. www.thecontentmap.com

6. SEARCH ENGINES

Using a child friendly search engine allows content to be filtered. Most adult search engines, such as Google, Bing and YouTube, also have built in filtering options under the 'preferences' link that should be adjusted before use.

Google **Google Family Safety Centre:** www.google.co.uk/goodtoknow/familysafety

Ask Kids

cbbc BBC: www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/find   **YAHOO! KIDS Yahoo!:** kids.yahoo.com   **Ask Kids:** www.askkids.com

7. WHERE TO REPORT

Need help? Information about what to do if a child comes to you for help and advice about how to report online concerns such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content or illegal behaviour. www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/need-help

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP): A police agency tackling child abuse on the internet. This website includes a unique facility that enables parents and young people to make reports of actual or attempted abuse online. www.ceop.police.uk
CEOP's **Think U Know** website contains information for children and parents, as well as a link for children to report abuse online. www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Internet Watch Foundation: The UK's hotline for reporting illegal content found on the internet. It deals specifically with child abuse and criminally obscene images hosted in the UK and internationally. www.iwf.org.uk

ParentPort: A website run by the UK's media regulators, allowing you to report content unsuitable for children found in a programme, advert, film, video game, newspaper/magazine or other forms of media. www.parentport.org.uk

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