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YSGOL FABANOD HENDRE

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Next Tuesday, 6th February is Safer Internet Day. There are a few hints and tips for helping keep your child safe online that we would like to share with you:

Time to Talk

Take the time to ask your child to show you what they like to do online. It will give you a good opportunity to see what your child sees online and you can discuss online safety at the same time. Make sure your child knows they will not be in trouble for telling you about anything they see online and that you are always there to help.

Supervision and Child-Safe Settings

When your child is online at home we would recommend ensuring that they are in the same room as you. Just like how you wouldn't let your child out of sight in a busy public place, the Internet is a virtual busy and public place. If your child is in the same room as you then you are always on hand to help them and support them with staying safe online.

Many websites and search engines (like Google) allow you to set up "child-safe" or "family-friendly" settings. Doing this will help to stop your child accidentally seeing inappropriate sites or images but it won't stop everything, so supervision is still important. If you use Google you can visit https://www.google.com/preferences to set up "safe-search". Similarly, if your child "plays" on your personal mobile phone or tablet then safe search settings are advisable on that device too. This will help to stop your child from seeing potentially upsetting things, such as fake cartoons on YouTube which have adult content.

Check age-settings

Many websites require a minimum age for signing up, for example, Facebook's minimum age is 13. If your child plays Minecraft, check they are using a child account. Minecraft allow parents to set up child accounts for players under 13 and these child accounts have multiplayer and communication settings blocked.

Chat Settings

Some websites allow users to chat with each other and make "friends" online. Apps or sites like "Roblox" may allow strangers to send your child inappropriate messages. Please check if sites that your child likes to use have any chat or "friend" functions. Anyone your child can message online should ideally be someone you or they know in real life.

Passwords

Remind children that passwords and details like full name and address are like your toothbrush: don't share it with anyone else!

Please feel free to speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions about e-Safety.

Thank you,

Mrs Brake
ICT Coordinator