

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands Primary School

E-Safety News

Issue 1

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

29th November 2013

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome to our new termly E-Safety newsletter. We are working hard at Fairlands Primary School to ensure that all the children from Early Years through to Year 6 are learning how to be safe online. They are constantly learning about this through their weekly Computing Sessions and are reminded of this each time they use the numerous New Technologies resources we have available in school.

I will be sending out an E-Safety Newsletter each term to help inform parents and carers of how to keep their children safe online, and keep them up to date with the latest guidance and developments in relation to E-Safety. If you have any questions or suggestions of things you would like advice on, please feel free to contact me via e-mail. My e-mail address is emily.thompson@fairlands.herts.sch.uk.

Emily Thompson

Senior Teacher – New Technologies

THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING SAFE ONLINE

It is vital that you keep your child safe while they are on line. There are numerous risks and dangers associated with children having unsupervised access to the internet. Please ensure that you are constantly monitoring their internet use. You can do this by ensuring that they are in the room with you when they access the internet.

With older children you can check the history of their internet use on the device that they are using, to get a clearer picture of what they are accessing online. It is recommended that you always set up parental controls on any device that is used by your child or within your family. This will ensure that adult content cannot be viewed by your child. This does not always remove all of the risks though so please ensure you stay vigilant.

Current advice also recommends that you store web cams away from PC's and laptops, so that children have to ask for them before use. This means that you can ask what they are using them for. Often web cams and cameras are

now built into devices, making this more difficult.

Discussing what these should and shouldn't be used for is important. Remember to remind your children to never speak to people they do not know. Stranger danger is as important online as in real life.

Please also ensure that children are not spending too much time engaging with new technologies and are engaging with other school based tasks such as reading and writing. This is particularly important before bedtime. If your child is struggling to sleep, current research suggests removing all technological devices for at least 1 hour before bedtime to help with this.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Please see the following website for advice on how to set parental controls on the top 4 internet service providers.

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/parental-controls>

THE OVER 13 RULE

It's easy to ignore the terms and conditions of websites and services when we sign up for them but, when we click 'accept', we are saying that we have read and understood them. One of the common terms of social websites is that **children under 13 may not sign up**. This is true of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and many others.

Can we please remind parents that no children that currently attend Fairlands Primary should have accounts with any of these services, due to their age. Unfortunately, if we become aware of any incidences occurring with these websites and services or any children with profiles on these, we will contact the service provider with the child's name and correct date of birth, which will result in the child's profile being permanently removed.

TALKING ABOUT NEW TECHNOLOGIES

It is important to discuss your child's use of new technologies with them as much as possible. This can sometimes be a difficult topic to tackle. Sometimes it can seem that they speak another language and know so much more than us. However, this type of discussion is essential, as it ensures that they feel comfortable talking about their online use with you and will be happy to tell you if anything happens which they don't feel comfortable with. Please look at the following list of conversation starters to help you talk about this with your child.

http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/documents/mind_the_gapv2.pdf



ASK.FM

Ask.fm is a website that has received a lot of media attention recently. Ask.fm is a site where people can ask and answer questions to each other, predominantly anonymously. Due to the majority of users opting to do so anonymously, the site is frequently used for posting sexually explicit material and/or hurtful and obscene messages. Although the site is primarily used by young teens (12-16 year olds), more and more younger children are reportedly accessing the site. There are some guidelines available, including a helpsheet on how to switch off anonymous posting, report a concern and disabling an account here:

www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/social_networking/askfm.shtml

Our advice would be to not allow children to use the site at all.

WEB CAMS

The Children's Exploitation and Online Protection Agency (CEOP) have issued a warning about the rising use of web cams by sex offenders to blackmail children and young people. It would appear that children and young people are often asked to send graphic images/videos of themselves online. Please ensure that you monitor your child's use of a web cam, particularly those that are built into devices. Again discussing the dangers of speaking to strangers is vital.

This E-Safety Newsletter will now be published termly. If there is any advice you would like to see in the next newsletter please contact me at emily.thompson@fairlands.herts.sch.uk