26th October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Online Safety

This term we have been made aware of a number of incidents involving unkind behaviour between children through online games and messaging apps. This has involved group chats, swearing and unkind comments. We have spent time in school responding to these incidents through circle time and PSHE lessons. We would encourage all parents and carers to speak regularly with their children about how they behave online and remind them that our school values of ready, respectful; and safe apply both in person and online.

Please take time to check the apps, games and communication platforms your child uses, review privacy settings and encourage them to speak to you if they experience or witness anything upsetting online.

Talk regularly about online behaviour

Children should understand that:

- Messages sent online can hurt people just as much as words spoken face-to-face.
- Screens do not make unkind behaviour acceptable.
- They should tell a trusted adult if they receive upsetting messages or experience problems in a game.

Know what apps and games your child uses

Ask your child:

- Which games do you play? Who do you play with?
- Which messaging apps do you use? Do you ever chat with people you do not know offline?

The UK Government has introduced the **Online Safety Act**, which places legal duties on social media companies, gaming platforms and search services to protect children online. In addition, they have announced plans for further restrictions on children's access to certain social media services and high-risk online features, with additional measures expected to be introduced from 2027.

By working together, we can help ensure all children enjoy the benefits of technology safely and respectfully. Please see this guidance for age requirements: **Social media guides - UK Safer Internet Centre**. Here is a great resource for parents: **Talking to your child about online safety | NSPCC**.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep your children safe online.

Kim Bird
Deputy Head Teacher