

Netley Abbey Junior School

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Dear Parents

Internet Safety and Social Media

This week in school we have been reinforcing internet safety messages and discussing how the children have been using the internet over the summer holidays. Several children from throughout the school have mentioned using social media sites including Instagram, WhatsApp and Snapchat. Many other children are chatting to strangers on gaming sites and being exposed to bad language, as well as potentially other risks.

A recent article from the NSPCC stated that:-

“Some sites can be a dangerous place for younger children, potentially exposing them to bullying, inappropriate content or grooming. But they can also provide important support networks for younger people.”

We have discussed a wide range of ways to keep safe online and to report problems and are pleased that many children have taken safety measures such as making YouTube accounts private, disallowing posts and blocking unwanted callers or messages. However, some are not, so we would like to emphasise the importance of regular discussions at home about what the children are using, how they are using it and what to do if they experience problems of any kind.

Obviously the decision to use the various social media and gaming sites rests with you, but as recent research suggests that many parents may be unaware of the current age limits, here is the information:-

Age 18 (or 13 with parent's permission): YouTube, Flickr, Keek

Age 16: Whatsapp

Age 13: Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Reddit, Tumblr, Google+, Pinterest

We hope that this letter helps you to make informed decisions but if you have any questions, or suggestions for areas of improvement, please let us know. We are actively looking for parents wishing to be involved in the new Online Safety Group. Please contact the school with your details if you are interested.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Davis
Computing Specialist