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Dear Parents and Carers,

As a school, we receive daily correspondence from the Department for Education and today's guidance relates to online safety for keeping children safe whilst online accessing remote learning, recommended websites and use of search engines. The guidance relates to our school's recent acknowledgement of the national online safety day. The full guidance can be accessed via:

Guidance
Coronavirus (COVID-19): support for parents and carers to keep children safe online
Updated 11 February 2021

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online?utm_source=16%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Following are some extracts from the full document which you might find useful.

Keep your child safe online: *It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online.*

These resources provide guidance for parents and carers to keep children safe online. They will, amongst other things, support you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues, set up home filtering in a child-friendly way and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices:

- *Thinkuknow by the National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (NCA-CEOP) provides resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online*
- *Childnet has developed guidance for parents and carers to begin a conversation about online safety, as well as guidance on keeping under-fives safe online*
- *Parent Info is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP, providing support and guidance for parents and carers related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations*
- *National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has guidance for parents and carers to help keep children safe online*
- *UK Safer Internet Centre provides tips and advice for parents and carers to keep children safe online - you can also report any harmful content found online through the UK Safer Internet Centre*

From tiny acorns **mighty oaks** grow...

What harms might my child experience online? *You may have concerns about specific harms which children can experience online. There are more resources to help you understand and protect your child from different harms online, including:*

- *child sexual abuse – [a definition](#)*
- *exposure to radicalising content*
- *youth-produced sexual imagery ('sexting')*
- *cyberbullying*
- *exposure to age-inappropriate content, such as pornography*
- *exposure to harmful content, such as suicide content*

Age-inappropriate content and parental controls: *If you have downloaded new apps or bought new technology to help stay connected at this time, remember to review and adjust privacy and safety settings if you or your child is signing up to a new online service.*

[Internet Matters has provided step-by-step guides](#) on how to set up parental controls so that you can control what content your child can access online.
The [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has developed guidance on how to switch on family-friendly filters to prevent age-inappropriate content being accessed on devices in your home.
The [NSPCC](#) provides more information for parents or carers with concerns about their child seeking inappropriate or explicit content online.

Apps to help children stay safe online: *The BBC have a website and app called [Own It](#). The website has a lot of content for children to help them navigate their online lives, and the free smartphone app comes with a special keyboard which can intervene with help and support in the moments that children need it the most. It can be downloaded for free in the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.*

[SafeToNet](#) is an app for parents to help them safeguard their children from online risks like cyberbullying and sexting, whilst always respecting their child's rights to privacy. The SafeToNet Foundation is providing UK families with free-for-life access to the SafeToNet safeguarding solution during coronavirus.

Support for children: *If your child is worried or needs support, they can receive advice and support from [Childline](#) (0800 1111) or download the 'For Me' app.*

If you need help to support your child's mental wellbeing, this [list of online education resources for home education](#) includes mental wellbeing resources which provide guidance on how to support the wellbeing of children and young people.

I hope you find the above information and website links useful and helpful in assisting with your child's/ children's online safety.

Your sincerely,

S Arnold

S Arnold
Headteacher

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