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July 2019

Dear parent/carer,

Your child's online summer

We talk about staying safe online and offline throughout the school year, but we would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to talk to your children about what they do online and on their devices before the upcoming summer holidays.

There are a few tips to help you with this below, but if you would like to find out more, there is a free Facebook Live session at 7.30pm on 16 July from the DigiSafe team at LGfL which may interest you. The short live session will cover the latest tips and tricks that may be of use this summer to strike a balance between giving children independence but also keeping them safe.

See www.facebook.com/LGfLDigiSafe

Here are some further ideas for help and support:

- You can call the NSPCC / O2 parent online-safety helpline on 0808 800 5002 for specific online safety advice or help with parental control settings for your home internet or devices.
- There is an excellent tablet app from Internet Matters built to help parents have a conversation about online safety with their children. Just search Internet Matters on the app store.
- Search NSPCC NetAware on the app store for an excellent 'app about apps' with overviews of all the top sites, apps and games that your children play (but why not ask your child to show you their apps, sites and games themselves – they will be the best teachers).
- The press may show lots of scare stories about 'bad apps' to avoid, but it is more important to think about behaviour, and what can happen on any app that has a certain feature (e.g. livestreaming), rather than on a particular named app.
- If you are worried about screentime, why not look at www.screentime.lgfl.net for sensible advice that you may find useful. Rather than focussing on 'time' on devices, think about quality and creativity instead.
- Google "family agreement" plus Childnet or NSPCC to see examples of how you can minimise arguments before they occur.

Worrying things happen online but there are also many positives, so why not get involved and share some online experiences with your children this summer. 73% of children and young people trust their parents to talk about online safety, but only just over half speak to them about it once a year or more. Join the Facebook Live above if you need help feeling equipped to do just this.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss O'Toole
Computing and Online Safety subject leader