King Edwin Primary School

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<u> RE – Parental Controls</u>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Protecting children online is something that I am sure every parent worries about in this world of ever evolving technological advancement and instant information sharing. As a parent myself, I find it difficult to keep up with the latest apps and trends and consequently the potential pitfalls that are associated with our digital world.

In school, as you can probably imagine, we have stringent systems that filter innapropriate content and help to keep our children safe. We also have reporting mechanisms that indicate when a child may perhaps accidentally, browse for 'things' that we would not want them to. Typical examples of this include:

- If a child searches for the words **'bouncing bomb'**, we will receive an alert. This alert is quickly looked into but almost all of the time , this is related to the child studying **World War 2** in school.

- Children have searched for the word **ISIS** before and we receive an alert...only to find that they are studying **Greek Gods** in their latest topic.

There are many more examples that we could share with you but our main priority for now is that we direct all parents toward the NSPCC site giving instructions as to how you can protect your system at home and filter innapropriate content that your children may be exposed to otherwise.

Please access the following site for further info: Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC

Essentially it is a parent's responsibility to protect their children online at home and we would strongly recommend that parents are always present when their child is online with whatever device they use at home, including any school device.

A parents broadband provider will offer protective filtering levels that help protect children in a household. The more common providers such as BT, EE, Plus Net etc. often offer this as part of their package.

I must make every parent aware that even our school devices that are leased or that are borrowed for the purposes of remote learning, are totally dependednt on the protection or filtering system applied at the household that the device is connected to.

If, after contacting your broadband provider or using the informative link above, you are still struggling with your home network filtering service, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will try to offer further support.

Kind regards, Mr Callaghan-Wetton - Headteacher King Edwin Primary School

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