King Edwin Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

In the past few months, I have noticed a marked increase in concerning behaviours regarding online activity and digital engagement amongst our Year 4,5 and 6 children.

My concerns generally cover the following issues:

- **unsupervised online access**
- **use of Apps and sites that are not age appropriate**
- **a perceived lack of filtering and safety protection in the home**
- **online disagreements bordering the realm of 'bullying' amongst children**
- **concerning search history activity**
- **unhealthy comments regarding social media and well-being**

As a school we feel that it is our responsibility to support children to learn how to stay safe in the digital age and as such, we actively deliver e-safety sessions in school.   We also encourage children to talk about their experiences and feelings.

Our discussions with the children highlight their own concerns and feelings about the issues stated above. It is very clear that our children need support and guidance in school and at home too.

Within our setting, children cannot access Snapchat or other similar Apps as they can't use their mobile phones in school. They cannot access inappropriate content online as we have filtering systems that both prevent and alert us to such search actions.   We also have an alert system that lets us know when a child has searched for inappropriate material on a school leased Chromebook used outside of our school.

In many cases, searches are not necessarily deeply concerning but it is clear from alerts received, many parents are not necessarily supervising their children particularly closely when they are active online.

We will be delivering parent support sessions in the near future and over the course of the year as we feel that this issue needs to be tackled together as a school community.

In the meantime, I would strongly urge all parents to access the **National Online Safety App** of which King Edwin Primary School is a long-standing member of.

The resources in the **NOS App** include Parents & Carers courses, online video resources and weekly guides covering a huge range of topics, including:

Online Relationships	*Radicalisation, Terrorism & Extremism*
Fake Profiles & Social Bots	*Age-Inappropriate Content*
Online Bullying	*Copyright & Ownership*
Online Grooming	*Hacking*
Child Sexual Exploitation	*Fake News*
Sexual Harassment & Violence	*Online Fraud*
Sexting	*Online Reputation*
Live Streaming	*Personal Data*
Online Identity	*Pornography*
Screen Addiction	*Targeted Adverts & Pop-Ups*
Online Challenges	*The Dark Web*
Overspending	*Games & Trends*
Social Media Platforms	*Online Gambling*

Sign up is easy!
To create your account, please follow https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/king-edwin-primary-school-and-foundation-unit and complete your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set **'Parent/Carer'** as your user type.

What does this mean for you?
As part of our membership, The National College provides dedicated training and resources for parents and carers – particularly, around online safety and keeping children safe online.

Online safety advice on any topic
Of course, staff will continue to teach children about the risks online. But with the internet so readily accessible, the most effective approach to online safety needs everyone involved, including parents and carers.

You can access **National Online Safety online** via any device- including via the smartphone app. To download the app, please go to:

https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/national-online-safety/id1530342372

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.nationaleducationgroup.nos

Alternatively, search for 'National Online Safety' in the App Store/Google Play Store.

Answers to frequently asked questions and customer service can be accessed at
https://helpdesk.thenationalcollege.co.uk/helpcentre

What else can parents/carers do to help children keep safe online?

• Discuss together as a family how the internet will be used in your house. Consider what information should be kept private (such as personal information, photos in school uniform etc) and decide rules for making and meeting online friends. Ensure your children know the risks of accepting friends' requests from strangers online and make sure you know what your child is doing online much like you would offline.

• Discuss using strong passwords with your child so they understand how they can protect their online accounts- talk about keeping passwords safe e.g. not sharing them with anyone or use the same password for several accounts. If your child's account is "hacked" or compromised, then make sure they change their password and report any concerns or suspicious activity. For more advice on using strong passwords visit http://tinyurl.com/Getsafeonlinepassword

• Consider locating your child's computers and laptops in a family area but be aware that children access the internet on mobile phones, games consoles and tablets so use can't always be supervised.

• Be especially aware of settings rules relating to your child's use of webcams and any applications or devices which allow voice or video chat. Childnet have useful information for young people about using webcams safely www.childnet.com/young-people/secondary/hot-topics/video-chat-and-webcams

Online Safety

• Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or contact from unknown people. Research different parental control software and tools available for your home and select the tools which are most suitable to you, your child and the technology in your home. Visit sites like www.internetmatters.org , www.getsafeonline.org and https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers for safety information and advice about parental controls on consoles and devices and how to report concerns.

 • Make sure you read any parental guidance and safety recommendations (including age requirements – most popular social networking sites and apps are only for users aged 13+, 16+ or 18+) for any apps or websites before allowing your child to use them - visit www.net-aware.org.uk

 • Always remember that parental control tools are not always 100% effective and sometimes unsuitable content can get past them, so don't rely on them alone to protect your child.

Listen

• Take an active interest in your child's life online and talk openly with them about the things they do. Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet, learn which websites or tools they like to use and why. Learning together with your child can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour online.

• To start a conversation with your child you could tell them that you understand that some young people share images and videos online and that you're interested to know what they think about it and how they think they can keep themselves safe.

Dialogue – keep talking

• Ensure that your child knows that once a picture, video or comment is sent or posted online, then it can be very difficult to remove as other people can forward it and share it with others, without them even knowing.

• www.childnet.com and www.thinkuknow.co.uk has some really useful tips and ideas for parents/carers about starting conversations about online safety

• Always ensure your child knows how to report and block people online who may send nasty or inappropriate messages or content. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply to cyberbullying and to keep any evidence.

• Make sure your child knows it's important that they tell an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.

Remember, the internet is an essential part of young people's lives and provides them with tremendous opportunities. The vast majority use it without coming to any harm so it's essential to be realistic: banning the internet or web sites often will not work and it can make a child feel less able to report a problem or concern, so education around safe use is essential.

Websites to visit for more information:
 www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the "Parent/Carer" Section and use the "Click CEOP" button to seek advice and report online abuse
www.childnet.com – Visit the 'Know It All' Section for an interactive guide about online safety
www.getsafeonline.org – Free up-to-date Security advice including using complex passwords and managing hacked accounts
www.internetmatters.org – Information from the four largest internet service providers (BT, Sky, Talk Talk and Virgin)
www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety - NSPCC's Share Aware campaign provides information for parents about popular social media sites, apps and games.
www.saferinternet.org.uk – Parents guides to safety tools on popular devices and signposts report mechanisms for some websites.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Andy Callaghan-Wetton – Headteacher

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms
What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?

Under 13
- Roblox
- PopJam
- FaceTime

13+
- Twitter
- Facebook and Messenger
- Viber
- WeChat
- Monkey
- Yubo
- Dubsmash
- Instagram
- TikTok
- Skype
- Google Hangouts
- Reddit
- Snapchat
- Pinterest

16+
- WhatsApp
- Telegram Messenger
- Tumblr

17+
- Line
- Sarahah
- Tellonym

Sourced from NSPCC website October 2019

WOODLAND TRUST

NOS CERTIFIED SCHOOL COMMUNITY 2018

Forever Reading
A Nottinghamshire Strategic School Improvement Funded Project

FSA FOREST SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

nrich Specialists in rich mathematics

Eco-Schools England

Apple Teacher

nace member 2018
National Association for Able Children in Education

Healthy Schools

MINSTER TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE