Safeguarding / E- safety Newsletter 2021

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to the seventh Safeguarding / E-safety newsletter. This week I am covering personal information online. It is very easy for us as adults not to realise how much information we share online without being aware of it.

Have you ever googled yourself? If you use any social media, you will be there somewhere!

As adults we believe we know what we are doing online, but what about our children? Things they share online now could not just give information to others but could also affect their future. Employers, colleges and universities have been known to 'look up' applicants when deciding offers.

Someone sent me this YouTube video. 'How private is your personal information' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrjT8m0hcKU I have to say, when I watched it, it really set me thinking. Am I as careful as I thought? Please take the time to watch it – it is very short, less than two minutes.

A parent's guide to personal information

From online gaming to social media apps - if your child enjoys the internet it's important you know how to protect their personal information and support them to make safe choices about what they share about themselves online.

What is personal information?

Personal information is any information that can be used to identify your child.

It includes obvious things like their name and email address, date of birth, or where they live. It can also include some less obvious things, like who their family and friends are, where they go to school, or a photograph or video showing what they look like. Online it also includes their username and password.

Personal information also includes bank or payment details – although most of the time this will be your information, rather than your child's.

Sharing personal information

There are lots of ways your child might share personal information.

This includes:

- **Sharing when creating a new online account.** Most online sites, apps and games ask you to share some of your personal information, like your name and email address, when you create an account, as well as creating a username and password. If you have primary aged children, the accounts should be set up together or by you, so you know what information has been shared.

- **Choosing to share with others.** Children love to share, and many of the apps, games and smart toys that children use to learn, socialise and play will also ask them to share information about themselves. This might be a picture of themselves, their birthday or their hobbies and interests

- **Accidental sharing.** It's easy for children to share things online and they may share personal information without thinking about it. Such as where they live by putting up a photo and putting hash tags e.g.#happytobehome.

- **Being tricked into sharing information.** Your child could be tricked into sharing personal information by an unsafe website, scam email or pop up box. For example, children love competitions, prizes and giveaways, and may share their email address to get something in return.

Once shared, personal information could be used by others. For example, it could lead to the child being bullied, groomed or blackmailed or it might be used by used by cyber criminals. Don't worry, there are things you can do to help protect them and places you can go if things go wrong online.

How can you help protect your child?

1. **Talk to your child about safe sharing.** Talk to your child about personal information – what it is and when it is safe to share. Our Thinkuknow resources can help (see below). Make sure they know that some information should not be shared with others online and if they share something they shouldn't, they should let you or another grown-up they trust know.

   Read Thinkuknow's guide a parent's guide to privacy settings for more information about keeping your child's information private. [A parent's guide to privacy settings (thinkuknow.co.uk)](thinkuknow.co.uk)

2. **Create anonymous usernames.** On some sites, apps and games, children may be talking to other people that they don't know offline. Let your child know that they shouldn't share their full name or any other personal information about themselves such as the name of their school, address or telephone number.

3. **Protect their usernames and passwords**. Explain to your child that if other people see their username and/or password, the could use this information to access their account. Any passwords they set should be strong and safe but easy for them to remember and they shouldn't share their password with anyone, including their friends.

4. **Think before they click.** Remind them that some sites, emails and pop ups may try to trick them into clicking on links or sharing information. For example, they may offer free coins, avatars or upgrades. Before they click on any links, they should stop and ask for help from a grown up first.

5. **Use Thinkuknow resources:** Watch the Jessie & Friends animations for children aged 4-7 or visit the website for 8-10 year olds to help your child learn more about personal information and safe sharing.

And finally….

With children returning to school this is my last weekly newsletter for the moment, but please remember If you have any questions or would like to know anything further about developing your child's e-safety to help them safeguard themselves then please email me at the email address below.

If you have any concerns at all as well as reporting them online, please continue to alert us to them as well so we can look into them / investigate any site issues, this will help us safeguard other children and possibly alert other parents to potential issues. Please email us at admin@dalmain.lewisham.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,
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