

Dear Parents/Carers

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During school closures due to the Covid-19 outbreak, more children and young people are spending extended periods of time online and using devices.

It is vital that children and young people are kept safe when online at all times. Please take time to sit with your child and monitor their online activity closely.

Many children will be using social media platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and Tiktok to communicate with their friends. If your child uses Tiktok, please monitor closely as the app contains some very explicit music. Whilst it is important for children and young people to interact with their friends during this difficult time, you must ensure that your child aware of the following;

- **Protect** - Protect yourself online, never share personal information such as your phone number, school details or home address. Always use a nickname on social media to keep yourself safe.
- **People** - Not everyone is who they say they are. Never accept any friend requests from people you don't actually know. Always tell an adult if something online worries you.
- **Share Aware** - When sharing photos and videos always ensure that the posts do not upset or offend anyone.
- **Privacy Settings** - Make sure that your privacy settings on all social media are restricted and set to friends only to keep you safe (there is an Internet Matters link below to help with privacy settings).

Please ensure that safety settings and passwords on mobile devices, apps, PC's, laptops, tablets and consoles are turned on at all times. Internet Matters website has many resources to support you with this.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

More information about online safety during the school closures can be found at:

<https://coronavirus.lgfl.net/safeguarding>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

Kind Regards,

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