



WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



April 2016

Dates for your diaries

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Thank you to the parents, governors and staff who came together for an evening about Online Safety. This course—delivered in a user friendly format by Richard Prescott—covered important things such as chatroom safety, keeping your devices clear of malware and the rise of social media.

The internet is a wonderful tool and yet it can be misused. Recent surveys show that many teenagers spend up to 7 hours a day online and with more and more smart devices, today's children expect to be able to get online anytime, anywhere. Used sensibly it is a wonderful and powerful thing.

However, there are dangers online and the rest of this newsletter explains ways you can keep your child safe. The majority of online use happens



outside of school so it is vital that parents and carers think about how to educate their children on what to go on, what to believe and what to do if things go wrong.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr MacKinnon

Friday 8th April: School closes at 1:30pm for Easter break. No WOOSH/ After School Clubs.

Monday 25th April: Children back to school for Summer Term.

Monday 2nd May: May Bank Holiday.

Monday 9th to Thursday 12th May: Year 6 SATs—Good Luck to you all!

Monday 30th May to Friday June 3rd: Half-term.

Monday 6th June: Children back to school.

Friday 17th June: World Den Day

Thursday 7th July to Friday 8th July: Y6 London Trip.

Thursday 14th July: Sports Day. KS2 9:30am and KS1 1:30pm.

Saturday 16th July: Summer Fair. 11:00am to 1:00pm.

Thursday 21st July: Year 6 Show at 1:45pm.

Tuesday 26th July: Leavers' Assembly

Tuesday 26th July: School closes at 1:30pm for Summer break. No WOOSH/ After School Clubs.

HOW TO BEHAVE ONLINE

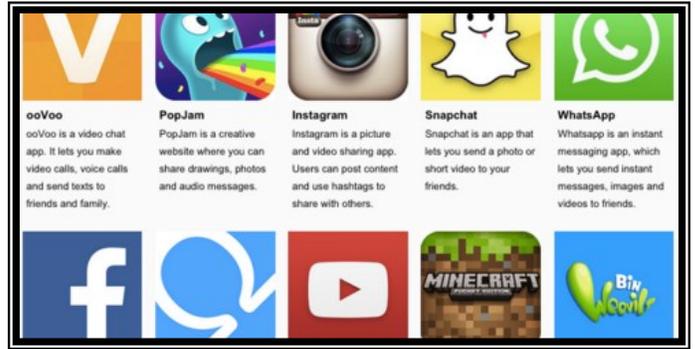
At school we teach children to be SMART (see poster overleaf) online and this is a good way to approach conversations with your child. The following advice, which is very helpful, was given at the training too.

- Children will go online—on devices you give them and those their friends have.
- Children will be far more tech savvy than their parents.
- Children like to keep their online presence hidden from parents.
- Children's 'digital footprint' - everything they ever type or send—will be there for ever.
- Future employers, universities etc will search online about people.
- Children should therefore only write and post pictures that they would be happy for their grandparents to see.
- When things go wrong—don't blame but talk to children.

SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

While the internet and online apps can be a great tool, they need to be used sensibly. Some parents worry about what the right age to go online is and want ways of protecting their children from inappropriate material and potential predators. You can help by...

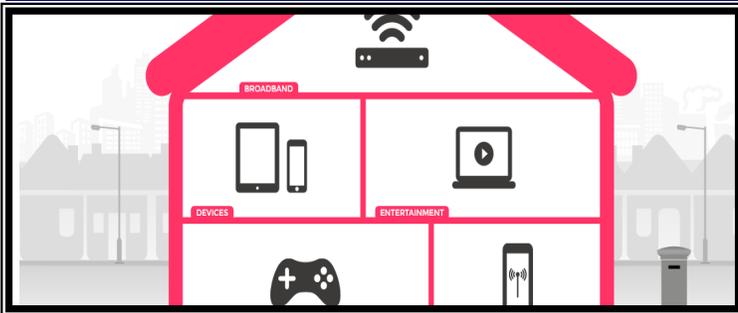
- Visiting **parentalcontrols-on.org** and seeing what settings you can use with your provider and your technology.
- Visiting **net-aware.org** (the NSPCC online advice) to learn about different apps, their age of use (most including Facebook are 13+) and the privacy settings on them.
- Reporting any inappropriate sites and people to both your ISP (Internet Service Provider) and **CEOP** (online Police combatting child exploitation).



ONLINE GAMING

Some things to consider...

- The right games at the right times in the right amount can be a great way for children to learn, have fun and communicate with friends.
- But are the games your child plays suitable? Many glamorise gang culture, drug taking and violence.
- Adults are often happy to buy an '18' rated game for a child whilst they wouldn't buy them alcohol or an '18' film. Ratings are there for a reason.
- Many games include chatting to other players.
- Children often say things online they would not say face to face.
- Voice masking/altering technology means that it is hard to know who is chatting online.



CYBER-BULLYING

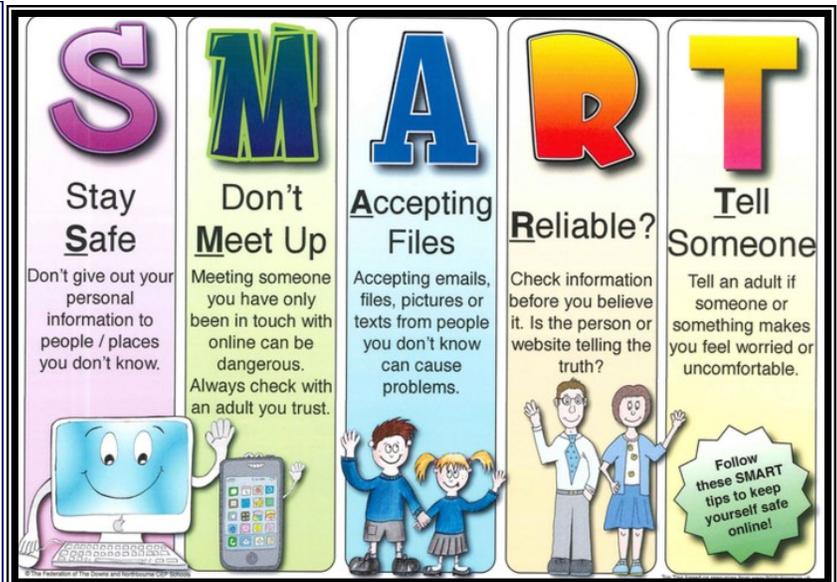
Cyber-bullying is a real and harmful form of bullying. Because of its nature, it can be impossible to get away from and is not restricted to one place. If it does happen then you need to believe in its harm—there have been cases of suicide due to it—and encourage children to have offline hobbies and friends too. School can also help, when bullies are known to us, if you bring in screenshots of the bullying messages.

MOBILE PHONES

We are now a mobile nation – more internet traffic happens on mobile devices than desktop computers. Much of this is on smart phones and children often....

- delete searching history.
- use WiFi when out and about which may not have filters.
- use phones at all times of the day.
- use a multitude of apps which parents cannot be familiar with.

The best way to ensure children use phones safely is to have clear rules (you are the bill payer) to establish trust. Rules may include no phones in bedrooms, permission to download apps and parents' right to see a phone at any time. Children also need to be willing to share phones if things go wrong.



You can keep up-to-date with dates, day to day learning and curriculum letters on our website:
www.willow.lancs.sch.uk