Friday 4th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

On Tuesday 8th February 2022, the pupils and staff at Masefield will celebrate Safer Internet Day 2022. Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. This year's theme is **'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'.**

As a school, it is important to us that our children become successful future citizens, both in the real world and the online world. As technology advances at such a high rate and the online world becomes more accessible to our children, it becomes increasingly important to inform and educate them about how to use technology safely and respectfully. Therefore, I have included some of the advice from the UK Safer Internet Centre to support discussion at home about staying safe and positive online:

Having conversations without judgement
Whether by playing games, watching videos, or doing things your child enjoys, spending time together online is a great way to start conversations about the online world and how they're finding being a part of it. It is important to ask questions and take an interest in what your child enjoys online. An essential part of having this open dialogue is to not judge, even if their behaviour or life online isn't what you wanted or expected. This ensures that your child feels they can come to you if ever they make a mistake or experience a problem online.

Knowing where you can learn more about their favourite apps and games.
Websites like Common Sense Media or The Family Gaming Database can be invaluable sources of information. When your child starts talking about a new game or app, why not do some research into the reporting and blocking options available? Then you can help your child if they come to you with an issue.

Getting support if things go wrong.
There are lots of organisations who are there to support you and your family if something has gone wrong. The Report Harmful Content website can help you with issues such as cyberbullying, impersonation and threats. You can report worrying behaviour towards children to CEOP. Find out more on Childnet's Get Help page.

Reassuring your child that whatever happens online, you are there to support them.
Let your child know that the best way to address any problem they have online, is to tell a trusted adult immediately. For example, this might include someone sending them a friend request; an online message; telling them to visit a specific website, or app; or asking them for their personal information. Reassure them that if anything happens online that they are unsure about, or makes them feel worried or upset, they can come to you for help.

I hope this advice is useful and enables you to hold open and honest conversations with your child about their online experiences. If you would like some more information about online safety, or have any questions following this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Illingworth
Year 2 Teacher and Computing Leader