



Park Spring Primary School

"Achieving Together"

30th March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I do hope that you are all safe and well. As we continue adjusting to this unprecedented period of isolation and home learning, it is important to note the importance of safeguarding young people and remote teaching brings with it greater challenges. Children will increasingly be using social networks to reach out to others and with that there will be an increased risk to fake news and online harms including grooming, radicalisation, exploitation, and bullying. All these issues could impact on their mental health and wellbeing. This is a time when many young people will be vulnerable and unfortunately, the potential for exploitation will be at its highest.

The UK Safer internet Centre has identified the following online risk categories;

- Behaviour: sharing too much information
- Content: age-inappropriate or unreliable content or fake news
- Contact: strangers, bullies, groomers or radicalisers can contact children
- Commercialism and financial exploitation: hidden costs of advertising in apps, games and websites
- Extremism and radicalisation

Also be aware of the potential increase of fake/poor quality organisations offering online learning to young people. On our website we have put links to reputable home learning apps/websites/resources for you.

How can you help protect your children?

Firstly speak to your children about their online activity. Remind young people of their digital citizenship responsibilities and how to look after themselves and others. There are useful resources available for parents below to equip you for this:-

1. **NSPCC NetAware** provides a useful guide to social networks, apps and guide.
2. National Online Safety have produced a series of top tips guides to support remote learning for Parents, Children and Teachers.
3. **Thinkuknow** is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline for different age groups and parents.
4. **Childnet** has produced a Parent and Carer Toolkit which is a collection of three resources designed to help you talk to your child about their online life, manage boundaries around family internet use and point you in the direction of where to get further help and support.

If you do have any concerns about your child's online behaviours, our designated safeguarding officers are available every day to speak to you over the telephone. Just call the school number and if someone is not available there and then to chat to you, they get back to you promptly.

Headteacher: Mrs R Horan
Swinnow Lane, Leeds LS13 4QT
Tel: 0113 2552526 Email office@parkspringprimary.co.uk

If you are concerned that your child is being groomed for Radicalisation or you become aware of online material promoting terrorism or extremism, please report this directly using the Online Tool on the Gov.UK website. This can be done anonymously.

We wish you and your families all the very best. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you require any support or advice.

Yours Sincerely

Louise Chapman
Designated Safeguarding Lead