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Dear Parent/Carer,

## Online Safety Update April 2021

One of the side effects of lockdown has been the increased use of technology. Most children have benefited greatly from this during lockdown but, unfortunately, sometimes things can go wrong. The misuse of technology that some primary-aged children have experienced includes, bullying, fraud and child abuse. **It is important that parents take an active role in keeping their children safe in the online world, just as they would in real life!**

The best way of protecting your child is to talk with them about how they use technology. Find out about the apps, websites and games they use and make sure they can share any worries they have with you. Both the net-aware and internetmatters.org websites, shown below, are full of helpful advice.

As a school, we take online safety very seriously and children are taught about keeping safe throughout their time with us, so they develop the skills and resilience needed to keep themselves safe online. We should remember that they are still children, they will make mistakes and they will need your support, not only to stay safe but to grow and flourish both online and offline.

Below we have listed some useful websites to help support your child staying safe. Please take some time to talk to your child and find out more from these sites. Parents and carers are also welcome to discuss issues and gain support from the school – we are here to help.

Website	Comment
<a href="http://www.internetmatters.org">www.internetmatters.org</a>	Really useful website covering parental controls, apps and all aspects of supporting parents with technology.
<a href="http://www.net-aware.org.uk">www.net-aware.org.uk</a>	Great website for parents, written by the NSPCC that explains about individual apps and the safety measures they have in place for children
<a href="https://www.childline.org.uk">https://www.childline.org.uk</a>	The website for children to get support themselves
<a href="https://www.ltai.info">https://www.ltai.info</a>	Support with radicalisation
<a href="https://www.getsafeonline.org">https://www.getsafeonline.org</a>	More for parents – this site explains how to protect yourself against online fraud – which is an increasing problem.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Ashton

Headteacher