



# Online Safety Newsletter

June 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, to begin with a huge **'Thank You'** to parents Mel and Lee who set up and ran an 'Online Safety' desk at Parents Evening. They helped make other parents/carers aware of potential issues and shared advice on how to keep children safe online. Please keep an eye on our website for more information on Online Safety.

The positives of the digital world can massively outweigh the negatives, but we still need to keep a watchful eye on children regardless of their age. All children in school are having half-termly sessions on age-appropriate online safety to raise their awareness. In school we have filters and monitor use of the iPads and computers daily, you can do this at home too.

Here are some great learning platforms available online or as apps to help your child at home.

**Google Earth** - This has proved massively popular with the children in school, particularly after the Google Expeditions day. The children love 'travelling' around the world and seeing different landmarks or directing themselves home from school following the map. It seems nothing is more exciting than seeing your own home on the internet!



**Times Table Personal Assistant** - In school we use this times table app that is free to download on iPads and tablets. This supports children in their instant recall of multiplication facts through a range of games. There are many other Maths apps available.



**Scratch** - Scratch is the main platform used for computing in many Primary Schools. Through this, the children learn to programme their 'sprite' to do a range of things such as move and draw. When they have developed this they can move on to create moving pictures such as comics or games. This can be downloaded to the desktop or accessed on the internet.



**Code.org** - Allows children to code through a range of 'lessons' on 'Hour of Code' with different themes such as Angry Birds, Minecraft and Frozen. Children can also develop their own games on this website.



**A thought about YouTube** - YouTube is sometimes used in schools for educational resources such as history clips, songs, etc. This use of YouTube is discussed with the children and they can see how it works. Many children shared that they already used YouTube at home. Please monitor your child using this to keep them safe, particularly if they have an account or post videos online.



**Twitter Reminder** - Please make your accounts on Twitter private by going onto 'Settings and Privacy' then 'Privacy and Safety' and turn on the 'Protect my Tweets' button.

