

31st January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find below an update on Online Safety.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is an annual event that is coordinated and supported by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Childnet International and the Internet Watch Foundation. It covers key online issues and the main goal is to get children and young people talking to each other and their trusted adults about what they get up to online. Research has shown that if we can do this regularly, the likelihood of children suffering harm as a result of their activities online is significantly lower.

This year's event will focus on change, including:

- Young people's perspective on new and emerging technology.
- Using the internet to make change for the better.
- The changes young people want to see online.
- The things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline.

Your children will take part in activities and discussion at school to highlight the opportunities that the internet and technology presents, as well as sharing the things you enjoy doing most online. They will also take part in age-appropriate discussions and activities to support the Online Safety Curriculum already in place.

We will also be sharing some 'offline' activities that can be done at home to facilitate a more open dialogue between you and your children about their 'online lives'.

Trending Website

We have been made aware of a trending website called 'Mylol'. It is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. We wanted to make you aware of this as it has no age verification system to prevent a younger or older person from joining. It has been removed from Google Play and the App Store but the website is still live. We have attached a parent guide on what you need to know about the website and some advice. A reminder that we have guidance on our website on how to set up parental controls on devices. This can be found here:

<https://www.southfarnhamschool.org/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=152>

Please be reassured that we will share this information with all staff to ensure that they are aware of this trending topic.

Online Safety Webinar

On Tuesday 6th February at 7pm there is a parent & carer live webinar session on Safer Internet Day. The session is hosted by Eduthing (our IT provider) and will include details on:

- Proactive Parenting Strategies
- Age-Tailored Guidance
- Practical Tools and Techniques
- Building Digital Resilience
- Interactive Q&A Session

The link below will take you to a registration page.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/registration/tZMvdOuorzouHdeTkX5NMfzmrpqC-DsCRLQo#/registration>

As ever, if you have any questions or concerns about Online Safety, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued support.

Esther Whitbourn
Headteacher
South Farnham School



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