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"The Internet Starts with I"

Safer Internet Day at The Orchards Primary Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Safer Internet Day is on 9th February 2021 and will be celebrated in the UK with the theme:

An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world

Safer Internet Day 2021 celebrates the amazing range of information and opportunities online, and its potential to inform, connect and inspire us, whilst also looking at how young people can separate fact from fiction.

The campaign focuses on how we can decide what to trust online, supporting young people to question, challenge and change the online world for the better. It will explore how influence, persuasion and manipulation can impact young people's decisions, opinions and what they share online.

The day will also look at the emotional impact navigating a misleading online world can have on young people and why it is important to create a supportive, critical and questioning culture online that encourages debate and discussion. We want to give young people the skills to support one another, and the strategies to spot and speak out against harmful and misleading content online.

Why is this theme important to young people?

In order to decide on a theme that was important to young people we spoke to them about the types of content they see online and found fake news and inaccurate content to come up often. Young people said they saw:

- "I see a lot of Fake News content, a lot of fake celebrity gossip, fake gossip (general)"
- "Adverts on webpages showing celebrities with extreme weight loss transformations and stuff like that."
- "Adverts and pop ups or even occasionally, strangers' messages and such."
- "Ppl on TikTok making up news, conspiracy theories..."

Through Safer Internet Day 2021, we will look at why inaccurate content exists, where it comes from, and what young people can do in response. We want to help equip young people with the skills they need to spot inaccurate content, which can sometimes be a complex task. Once young people feel more comfortable separating fact from fiction, it is important that we then help them to take the next steps in helping to create an internet full of trustworthy and reliable information.

The internet is also an important way for young people to build positive relationships - to play, interact and share their lives with their peers. As they navigate these social spaces, they are constantly making decisions about who and what to trust online in the context of playing games together and socialising online. Safer Internet Day gives young people the chance to build the skills they need to be able to make the best decisions as they navigate an online world where everything is not always as it seems.

Your child's class teachers will plan and provide activities for the children to complete on **Tuesday 9th February**. Please encourage your child to take part and complete these activities; it is important that they have a good understanding on how to keep themselves safe on the internet.

For children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6), below is a link which will support your child's understanding of Fake News:

[Find the fake quiz - Internet Matters](#)

I have also enclosed a link which provides Parents and Carers with some Top Tips on how they can help keep their children safe on the internet:

[Safer Internet Day 2021 Top Tips for Parents and Carers | Safer Internet Centre](#)

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch me via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Bell
Year 5 Class Teacher/ Curriculum Leader

