

Wyken Croft Primary School

Wyken Croft

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Headteacher: Mrs L. Stewart

Executive Headteacher: Mr D. Gardiner

3rd April, 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Online safety at Wyken Croft Primary School

We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for supporting the children with their home learning overall and for those of you that have logged onto Google classroom. We have been amazed by the children's enthusiasm, positivity and the quality of work being produced whilst at home. As we find ourselves in these more challenging times, I just wanted to take the opportunity to remind you of the SMART principles to follow for children staying safe on the internet. These are;

S – Safe

Keeping safe by not giving out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online. This also includes discussing gamer tags or other details in online forums.

M – Meeting

Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online is dangerous. This should only be done with parental permission or when they can be present. At present, maintaining relationships with people we trust is important for our mental wellbeing. Think about how you can stay in touch with friends and family safely via telephone or video calls. Social media is another way of doing this, however, there are lots of age restrictions on these apps, so will need to be checked first.

A – Accepting

Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages.

R – Reliable

Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are.

T – Tell

Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

For those parents with children accessing Google classroom, it is especially important to be clear what your child can and can't do online – where they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share. Agree with your child when



they can have a mobile phone or tablet – it is a good idea to set appropriate times so they are not using their devices late at night and you are ensuring they still get enough sleep!

Google Classroom is a secure platform which only children belonging to the school, with current passwords, can access. This stops external threats from being presented to children. For example, nobody can pretend to be someone else and communicate with the children as the password and accounts are controlled through the school. Names of children making comments are displayed too, with no option to delete comments. This reduces the risk of cyber bullying as comments can be monitored by teachers and staff to know what is being said and by who.

In each classroom there is a stream that children can comment on. They can ask questions of their fellow pupils and teachers, but they are unable to create new posts. For instance, they can comment on an assignment that has been posted to them if they need help or guidance on what to do next. This way they can use Google Classroom as a safe place for them to communicate with their peers. It will reduce the need for them to use more open social media sites and a teacher is able to monitor all communication through the school.

Teachers will post links to suitable websites to support some research tasks to reduce the need to look elsewhere for information. Additionally, children can also comment individually on a piece of work as they submit it. Teachers can then feedback directly to children on that particular piece of work and list any areas they have excelled in or areas to look at again, providing instant feedback.

We understand this is a different way of working so if you are having any issues or have a query about Google classroom, please call the school office between 9:00am and 4:00pm and we will try and resolve this for you.

Below are a list of websites where you can find more information to support you with online guidance and top tips for supporting your child whilst online at home;

- Childline – www.childline.org.uk
- UK Safer Internet Centre to report and remove harmful online content
www.reportharmfulcontent.com
- CEOP (to make a report about online abuse) www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre
- Internet Matters (for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
www.internetmatters.org
- London Grid for Learning (for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
www.lgfl.net/online-safety/
- Net-aware (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC) www.net-aware.org.uk
- Parent info (for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online) www.parentinfo.org
- Thinkuknow (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online) www.thinkyouknow.co.uk



- UK Safer Internet Centre (advice for parents and carers) <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Further links can be found on our school website at <https://www.wykencroft.coventry.sch.uk/esafety>

An email address has been set up specifically to support with any questions or queries you may have about online safety or any other concerns regarding safeguarding, free school meals or SEND issues. You can email pastoral@phoenix.coventry.sch.uk and Mrs McLean, Miss Simpson or I will reply to you as soon as possible.

We appreciate your support during this period of school closure, thank you again for your patience and encourage you to get in touch if you need any support,

Mrs K Webb

Acting Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

