



5 February 2019

## **SAFER INTERNET DAY 2019**



Dear Families

St Day and Carharrack School is joining the global Safer Internet Day campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Safer Internet Day will take place on Tuesday 5th February 2019 with the theme 'Together for a better internet'. The day and week offers the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community.

This week we are talking about internet safety in relation to online games children are playing which have age restrictions of 12 and above. We will be designing our own 'digital footprint' in class to stress how important it is to be responsible and respectful when online as this 'footprint' will stay with us for life.

## **Fortnite: E-safety Information for Parents and Behaviour Support**

Many children are talking about playing a game called '**Fortnite: Battle Royale**'. The game is free to download but has a PEGI rating of 12+ as themes within the game are not suitable for children of Primary School age.

There are several e-safety and safeguarding issues that may arise when children are playing this game. Please follow the link below which contains guidance for parents from the National Online Safety organisation.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide/>

This is a great site – it includes a 'Keep it Switched On' safety song for parents – with some quick and easy tips- please listen to it with your child!

Unfortunately, many of our younger children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are playing this game which is having a direct impact on behaviours we are witnessing in school and having to deal with on a daily basis. Children are attempting to imitate aggressive scenes in the playground and we are dealing with a number of incidents of abusive behaviour and inappropriate language that is being brought into school.

Please check your online communication settings on the game to ensure your children are not talking to strangers. Up to a hundred online users could be playing and communicating with your child online and influencing language choices.

We have discussed this with the children this week and listened to their feelings and thoughts as we are striving to have enjoyable playtimes and lunchtimes where everyone is kind to each other. Aggressive behaviours, talk of killing and completely inappropriate language are consuming a large part of the day as we unpick these negative behaviours. Mondays in school are particularly challenging and after discussing this during an assembly this week, the children also want changes to ensure playtimes are an enjoyable experience for everyone.

We can assure parents that we are taking a very clear line on inappropriate behaviours and following our behaviour policy rigorously. Any physical, aggressive or bullying behaviour is dealt with immediately and involves time out of class, meetings with parents, appropriate sanctions to fit the behaviour and exclusions. There has been an increased number of exclusions this term. In addition, new approaches are being trialled to monitor this and ensure parents are informed immediately. We are asking for your support with this as too many children are getting hurt. The feedback we have had from the parental and pupil questionnaires highlights the same concerns and we need to work together to change the behaviours of some children and the impact they are having on others. Our golden rules need to be followed to keep all children safe. We have a duty to protect all children. In addition to consequences in school and exclusions, we will be asking parents to come in and support with the behaviour of their child at playtimes and lunchtimes if inappropriate behaviour continues. We have invested in CPOMS – an online system to help with the recording of behavioural issues, bullying, special educational needs, domestic issues and much more all in one place. Using **CPOMS**, will build up a profile and evidence of strategies we have put in place to support your child and will provide you with detailed reports of your child's behaviour. We want a safe and happy place for all children to be. We are asking for your support in and out of the classroom.

If you decide to allow your child to continue playing Fortnite, please take the advice about managing the content, how to turn off chat, and where to get help and support.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience with this. You can find our Behaviour Policy and Golden Rules on the website. We need all families to support us with this drive to improve behaviours so we can fully focus on enjoyment for learning.

Yours sincerely

Ms Susannah Storey  
Headteacher