

**Recipient Name:** All Parents/Carers, Years Two to Six

**Recipient Address:**

**Date:** Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **e-safety and wellbeing**

As part of our routine e-safety processes, we conduct random spot-checks on the content of children's ipads. Typically, we are looking for age-inappropriate content that may have got through the filtering or for signs of children mis-using the device, for example by searching inappropriately.

We have identified an issue with online behaviour amongst a small number of children in Years Two and Three; this is largely around searching for inappropriate words and images.

All children in our school are aware of the importance of e-safety and responsible use of digital technology. It is a message repeatedly given to them from Reception onwards in assemblies and lessons. All children undertake sequences of carefully planned e-safety learning courses annually.

Children know that their i-pads are educational devices, to be used for enhancing their learning. They also know that they are great for more leisurely use and general wellbeing. Many of our children love to be creative on the i-pads in their downtime or as a treat, often producing fantastic outcomes; music, art, design, writing etc.

Given the issues we are having in Years Two and Three, which we feel to be about maturity and the kind of 'naughty' words and things children of that age can be keen to explore, we are putting a stop to any undirected use of the i-pads in those years. I-pads will, from today, only be used in a directed way in lesson time. There will be no access in breaks, dinner time etc.

We have not identified any issues in Years Four, Five and Six, where the children appear to be using the devices responsibly and creatively, even in less formal situations. Access to the devices in these years will not change.



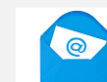
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Going forward, we will be increasing the frequency of our spot-checks in all years. Where children are found to have been using their i-pads inappropriately, they will be sanctioned with an SLT Detention for deliberate breaking of school rules and the Transform Trust Safe Internet Use Policy.

This will all be explained (again) to the children in a special assembly on the first day back after Easter. All children will be reminded of the acceptable use agreements we have in place and will be asked to sign up to this again. Copies are attached. We hope you might find this useful to discuss at home, to promote responsible online behaviour there too.

The introduction of i-pads has been a very successful initiative, one which many, many other schools are now beginning to adopt. We are frequently visited by school leaders from all over the country to look at our structure and the remarkable impact on children's outcomes and engagement with learning. We remain committed to supporting our children to become confident, safe users of technology. It is not going to go away in their lifetimes and they need to learn to be effective and responsible digital citizens.

Whilst we have stringent filtering and firewalls in place, it is just not possible to block out every potentially inappropriate word or phrase from search engines. The answer is in responsible use and the best level of supervision possible, whilst not limiting the creative and educational opportunities and freedom to develop creativity and a love of learning.

We hope you will find this re-assuring of our commitment to online safety and harnessing the benefits of this amazing resource.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hillier', written in a cursive style.

Peter Hillier, Headteacher

