HAPPY   HELPFUL

HARDWORKING

Whitehill Primary School

14th February 2019

Dear Parent and Carers,

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Whitehill Primary. We had an excellent day last week across the school, led by Mr Wadsworth, thinking how we can keep ourselves safe whilst using the internet coupled with the risks attached to group messaging forums and similar applications. We have been delighted to introduce Facebook this year and continue to use Twitter to help further links between home and school. We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure that safety messages are consistent and that all members of the community behave safely and appropriately online.

We are writing to you to request your support in ensuring that our children have responsible online role models when posting and sharing content on social media sites and group messaging applications. Whilst we are all entitled to have our own views and opinions, we would like to ask that all members of our community consider how comments may be misunderstood or misinterpreted when shared online, and the possible impact and consequences on others of our online actions. There are inadvertent risks for those who might post such content under both criminal and civil law linked to harassment, defamation and privacy.

If parents have any concerns regarding the school, then we would like to request that they be made using official channels, so we can work together to help reach resolution. It's important we all consider the potential impact and implications of online behaviour for ourselves and our families, as well as other members of the community. Our school is keen to work in partnership with parents and carers to promote responsible internet use and acknowledge how important our roles are in setting a good example of positive and responsible online behaviour for children.

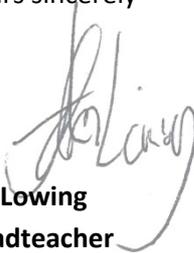More information about online safety can be found at the following places:

• www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

• www.saferinternet.org.uk

• www.childnet.com

• www.nscpcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

• www.internetmatters.org

Headteacher: A Lowing

If parents and carers wish to discuss this matter further or have any other online safety concerns the please contact Mrs Couchman in Student Support.

Many thanks in advance for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mr Lowing
Headteacher