

9.2.21

Dear Parents

I thought it might be helpful, as children are more online than ever before, to send some more e-safety information. I know that some of Beacon class talk about TikTok but am unsure of all the dangers. This site will be helpful if your child uses this:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/tiktok/>

It also has an update facility for you to be informed of other social media apps as they become popular, which might help you to keep up-to-date.

As we continue through the third lockdown, staying in touch using technology has remained important. Here are some tips from the West Sussex County Council team:

- Ensure privacy settings are on for all social media accounts
- Limit what you share ie avoid names, addresses, etc, and use safe usernames
- Remember that once posted, it is always out there
- Know how to block, mute or report on different platforms
- Review your children's friends' list regularly and limit to only people they know
- Use parental controls to block inappropriate content
- Encourage children to spread kindness on-line rather than criticise others

I think that these messages are important for us, as adults, but most importantly for the children. Please talk to them so they understand why they are sensible things to do.

It seems that one of the side effects of the pandemic, other than the obvious disease, is the tiredness we are all experiencing. Everyone seems to be exhausted! I hope that the week of half-term will particularly give those of you working from home a respite from trying to be teachers as well.

It must feel relentless for the workforce at home. The staff here are also striving hard to make sure that the home learning offer is as a high quality as possible yet accessible to all with very differing home circumstances. The one thing that's clear, is that the school can't supervise children from a distance for you, which must be a huge struggle if competing with employer's demands. We so respect all that working parents are trying to do – thank you.

Try to get a break and catch some breath.

Take care

*Fiona*