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Dear Parents,

In light of the closure of the school, it is likely that your children will spend an increased amount of time online, both completing learning tasks and during leisure time spent indoors. For this reason, please take the time to read the advice below on how you can keep your children safe online.

- Ensure that your children are only accessing age appropriate online content. Suggested websites for learning will have been shared by teachers in your child's year group. If children are searching for information online child friendly search engines such as Kidrex are safer than generic search engines.
- Some learning sites, such as Times Tables Rockstars, require a password. Remind your children never to give out their passwords to this or any other website.
- No social media platform in the UK has a minimum age lower than 13. This is because social media platforms do not have strict filters and have a number of functions which put children younger than 13 in danger. For example, they allow users to give out personal information including their location; they allow users contact with strangers; they allow the sharing of both inappropriate and also illegal material. Children younger than 13 are unable to fully comprehend these dangers and therefore unable to keep themselves safe using social media.
- When enjoying computer games in leisure time, ensure children are only accessing age appropriate games. All games are rated using the PEGI classification system. This works in the same way as film classifications; the age rating given is representative of the age at which the content is suitable, not the level of skill required. These ratings are also given because some games allow users to make contact with strangers.
- Ensure that all privacy settings have been set correctly. Bear in mind privacy settings are usually not set as a default.
- Ensure that all functions which enable location or video transmission are turned off: geo-tagging, webcams etc.

If you require any further information see www.thinkuknow.co.uk for details.

There have been concerns in the new this week that children spending more time online in the current climate may face increased risks of grooming and unwanted contact. If you have concerns that your child, or another child, is in danger from something which they have or may be experiencing online, please report to CEOP, the Police's dedicated online safety command, via their website.

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Yours sincerely

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