GOLDSBOROUGH and SICKLINGHALL Federation

Half Term Newsletter: Autumn 1

Sicklinghall Community Primary School

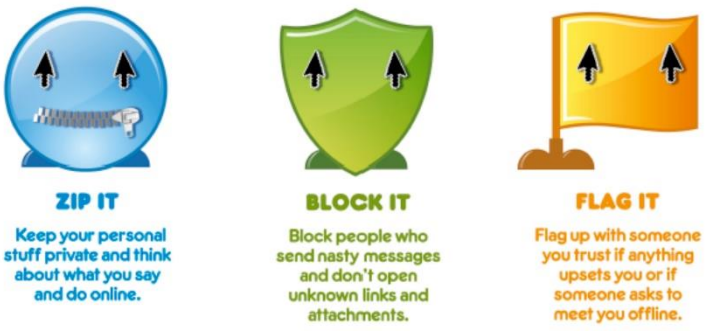
23.10.19

This newsletter may be quite a lengthy one to round up the half term. There is some important information to share so you may wish to grab a cup of tea!

Last week we invited prospective parents into school ahead of them choosing a Primary School place for their little ones. I did an introductory talk in the hall, the PTFA served tea, coffee, juice and biscuits and our new Year 6 Prefects conducted the tours of school. They were INCREDIBLE – they had been given some headings to think about and had worked hard to think about what they wanted to say about our AMAZING school to these special visitors. They spoke with such confidence and presented themselves to such a high standard that I was left looking on in awe, full of an immense sense of pride. They demonstrated everything that I am passionate about our children becoming before they leave Primary School: that they are confident, kind, self-aware young people, full of resilience and who can persevere through tricky scenarios and situations adapting as they go to what is required of them.

Our visitors were certainly impressed, brimming with their own compliments for the children. For me, the choice is easy: they should choose Sicklinghall Community Primary School, but we wish them luck in finding the school that is right for their children.

SAFEGUARDING - Online Safety:



This week it was brought to my attention that some unkind messages were being written online from pupils at our school, and that children had been in videos on Tik-Tok posing in their underwear and in their school uniform. It has also been brought to my attention that some children have been posting videos on TikTik from the school toilets.

Please can I remind everyone that mobile phones are not allowed in school. If they are required for personal reasons, this must be agreed with myself, and they must be handed in to the office first thing, stored in the school office all day and collected by the child at the end of the day.

Often, we worry about strangers online but we must also educate children about the world they now live in and the interactions they have. The rise of the internet has created amazing opportunities to learn and explore the world around them. But it's also given bullies a powerful new platform to target children. Parents generally think the best advice is to just ignore bullies as in the old 'sticks and stones' rhyme. However, as cyberbullies aren't restricted to the school playground, and with the multiple internet-enabled devices and plethora of Social Media that children access nowadays, cyberbullies have 24-hour access to torment and abuse them.

If you haven't seen the campaign video, search for 'Internet Matters: Sticks and Stones' and you should be able to see it.

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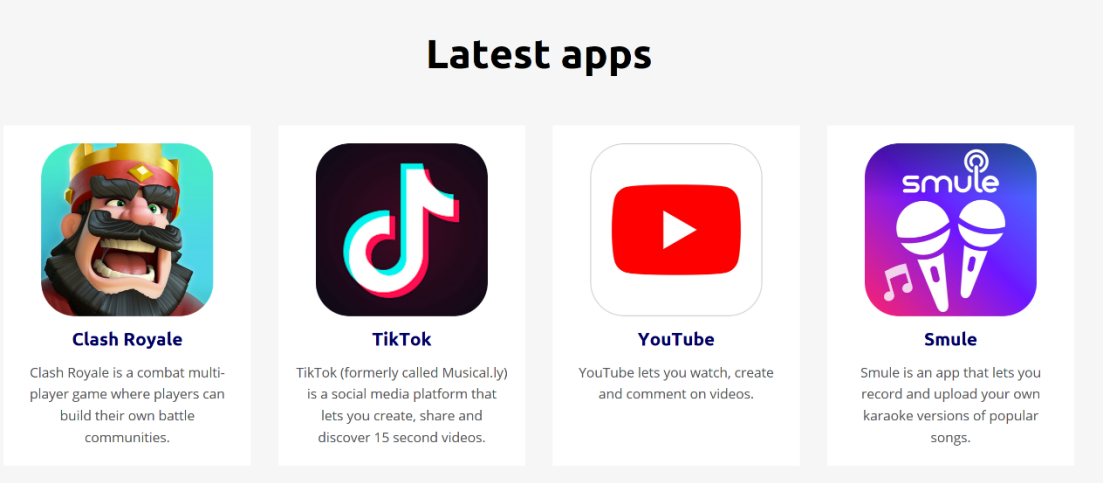
Please can I politely request that for those children who use Social Media, even if it is on an adult's phone, that messages written, and content shared is monitored. With the rise of poor mental health for young people as a result of interactions on Social Media, this is an ever challenging task but one that must be a priority for everyone.

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/ is an informative site that explains apps and games for parents. It provides and age rating and an overview of potential risks.

See some examples below from net-aware.



TikTok – seemingly harmless at first

TikTok – Age Rating of 13+

TikTok

TikTok (formerly called Musical.ly) is a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover 15 second videos. You can use music and effects to enhance your videos and you can also browse other people's videos and interact with them.

13+ Official age rating

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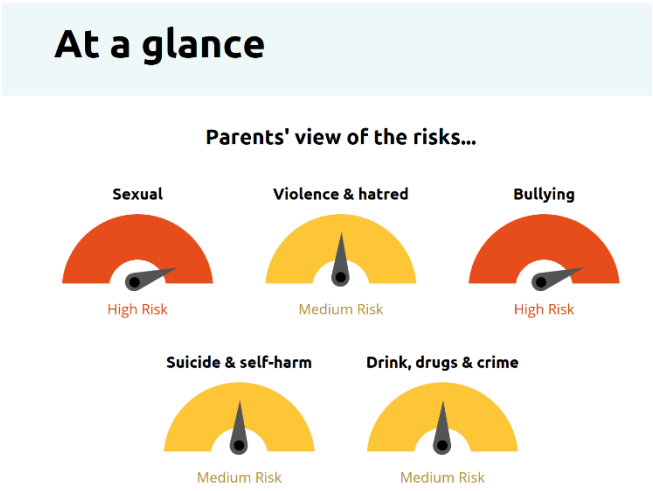
TikTok – Parents' View of the Risks based on what they have experienced / seen.

Instagram, a very popular one with young people has the following 'Parents' view of the risks…'



Net-aware is also very good at explaining these games and apps from the perspective of the children who like to enjoy them and from a parental point of view.

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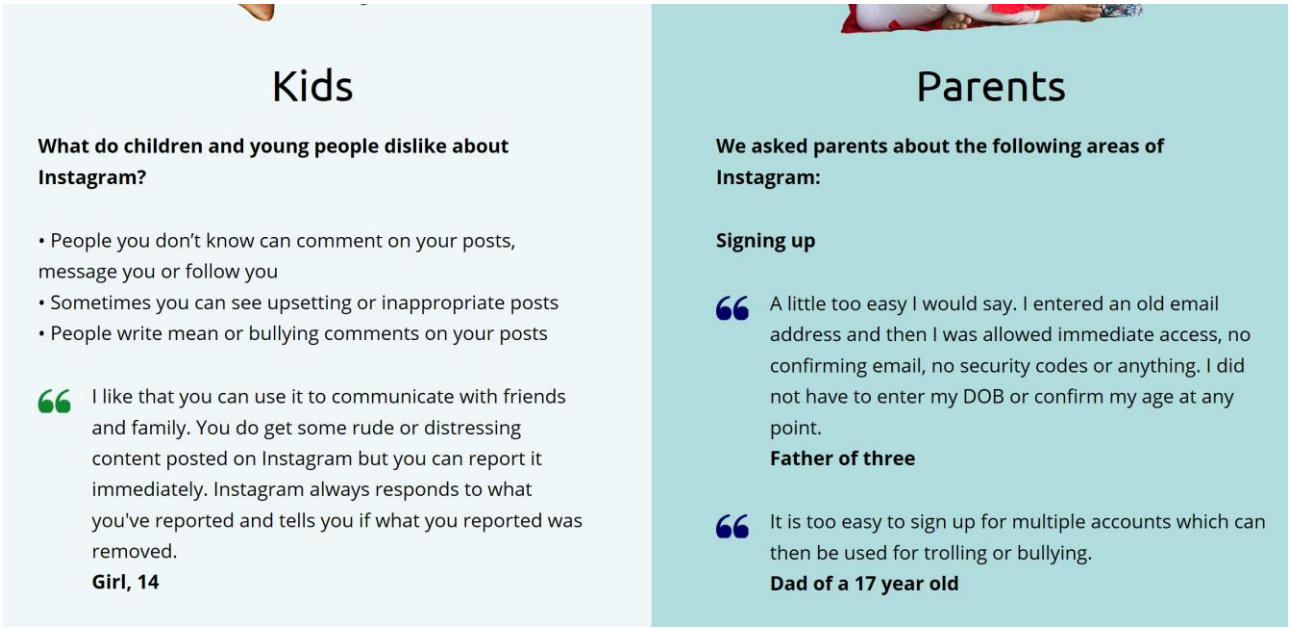

I would recommend having a good look around this site as it is a great tool for educating parents about Social Media, and popular games.

Parking Safety:

Unfortunately, in recent weeks, it has become evident that as a school community, safe parking rules are not being adhered to. People have been parking across residents drive ways, and on the yellow zig-zags outside of school. A member of the community witnessed an almost very serious accident due to this as there is no space being left between cars for oncoming traffic to pull into to allow vehicles to pass each other when travelling up or down the road. Please endeavour to park away from school and where possible, walk the remaining distance. **Never park cars on the zig-zag lines.**

In addition, I must remind you that children should **never** be on the school carpark – last week they were fussing a dog that had been tied up and a member of staff couldn't see them behind their car. Please discuss this with your children as it could have led to a serious accident.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

When we return after the half term break (Tuesday 5 November) we will have a Poppy Appeal box in school. Please remember to bring in your money for donations if you wish to buy a Poppy or other Remembrance Day merchandise.

Newsletters:

Rather than committing to the newsletters being weekly, I have made the decision to send them on a more ad-hoc basis when there is news and updates to share. This may mean they are sometimes sent weekly but in other instances, a newsletter won't be sent at all. Updates of the work children are doing can be found on the school twitter accounts and on the class website pages, so please check those to see what we have been up to.

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There will always be a newsletter during the first week of a half term as this will outline any coming dates, and in the last week of the half term.

In any new Headship, many things like newsletters become 'under review' as it is a good time to seek the thoughts of the staff team in order to make a new plan moving forward.

Thank you!

As a final point, I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you for making my first half-term as your Headteacher such a wonderful experience.

I feel very settled and 'at home' in my new role - I have had the most fantastic time getting to know the children and sharing their achievements. I can't wait to see what exciting topics they will be learning about next half term.

Unfortunately, on 25th October I am attending my uncle's funeral, so I won't be at school.
Have the most wonderful half-term holiday. I'll see you on Tuesday 5th November (Monday 4th is a training day).

Miss Pickard

Future Dates:

12.12.19 – Christmas Church Service – There will be two services to allow space for everyone to enjoy this. More details to follow in due course. This will be followed by Christmas Market after school at the end of the day. Enterprise project.
13.12.19 – Christmas Jumper Day - £1
18.12.19 – PTFA School Christmas Party in the Village Hall.
19.12.19 P&A School Christmas Dinner – children and staff to wear Christmas Jumpers again.
20.12.19 – 2:30pm – Sicklinghall finish for Christmas (Join us at 2pm for Carols Around the Tree in the Hall)