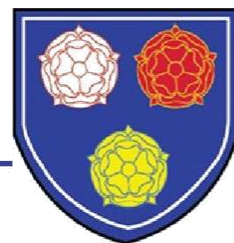


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Head Teacher: **Beverley Tester**

5th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to our children, so it is vitally important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers, and how to act safely when using them. There is a great deal of work relating to online safety that is carried out in schools, and when asked, they children can recite the safety rules. Whilst this is good, the fact of the matter is, they are children, extremely trusting and therefore vulnerable.

Local police intelligence has informed school that safeguarding issues have arisen relating to the game 'Fortnite'. There are some serious concerns with regards the 'online voice chat' feature, in that members may be posing as children, but may not be.

Police advice to parents is that if your child uses this feature, check messages for any inappropriate material. If any is found, please contact 101 to report the issue. Only with cooperation and information from the public, can these incidents be investigated and if necessary, shut down.

Further advice would be that if your child uses an online chat feature on any game, insist that they use this without headphones and downstairs, so that you become aware of conversations being held. Also make sure that you monitor their device regularly for inappropriate material.

We have uploaded the National Online Safety information in relation to Fortnite. This informs you of age restrictions, things that parents need to know about the game, and top tips. Instructions on how to turn the voice chat function off are also given on this sheet.

We all need to work together to keep our children safe, and by making a few simple changes and being aware of dangers, we can all make a huge difference.

The following are some useful websites.

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

NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

National Online Safety: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs B A Tester
Head Teacher



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