Oakfield Infant and Junior Schools Federation

Computing Newsletter

Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers, and wider, to join together in helping to create a better internet.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote at Oakfield Infant and Junior Schools Federation, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

On Tuesday 11th February, all the children took part in an assembly discussing this year's theme: 'Free to be me, exploring identity online.' We discussed how our identities online and offline may differ because we do not want to give any personal information online. We talked about creating a positive digital footprint as what is posted online is out there forever. We explored how children manage their online identity and how the internet shapes how they think of themselves and others. Our aim is to celebrate difference and help us work towards creating a truly inclusive internet.

Throughout the week, in lessons, children continued to explore this theme and the way in which people express themselves online both positively and negatively. We discussed how everyone is allowed and encouraged to be 'Free to be me' online as long as they do it kindly and respectfully and do not stop someone else from being free.

We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this you may be interested in downloading the **free** Safer Internet Day resource pack for parents and carers which is available here:

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2020/i-am-parent-or-carer

Here you will find more information about safer internet day, top tips, parent and child conversation starters and activities which you can do at home together as a family. The 'fun things to do' section (for all age groups) provides some good videos, cartoons, interactive games and posters which you can discuss and play with your child. Having an open conversation and finding out about what your child does online is extremely important to ensure your child has a positive online identity.

Some other resources which you may find helpful in supporting your child online are:

- Advice for parents and carers from Childnet
- Tips, advice and guides for parents and carers from the UK Safer Internet Centre
- Guides on popular apps and games from NetAware
- Reviews and information about games, apps, TV shows and websites from Common Sense Media
- Help on using parental controls and privacy settings from Internet Matters
- Information and reporting of online grooming or abuse from CEOP
- online safety activity templates on Purple Mash
- Max and Harvey's five social media rules for parents

https://www.bbc.com/ownit/its-personal/max-and-harvey-social-media-rules?collection=safer-internet-day-2020

Online safety is an important issue which as a school we are committed to teaching our children about.

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do not hesitate to get in touch.