

18.11.2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Online safety

This week is Anti-bullying Week, with the theme for the week being 'One Kind Word'. We have spoken about this at length this week and have encouraged the children to try to make a conscious effort to use kind words with other children and adults who are not part of their 'friendship group'

The use of kind words also applies to online use and it is this aspect of your child's personal development that I am asking for your support in monitoring. We are aware of the growing pressure for children to be on social media sites. However, as you will be aware these sites should only be used by children aged 13 years and over. The reason for this is that children younger than 13 years do not have the necessary maturity and understanding of safeguarding to keep themselves and others safe and also some social media companies are not allowed, by US law, to retain data from pupils under 13.

I am asking parents to take some time over the weekend to look together at your child's phone, tablet or other devices and monitor their messages, recent search history and images or videos they may be sharing or viewing. A discussion about the effect of using unkind words online is also useful to have as material posted 'online' can be difficult to delete as it is often quickly shared with others.

Children today experience so much more peer pressure from the online world than they ever would in 'real time' and it is more important than ever that we educate our children to keep them safe online.

We will also do our part in school to educate the children and try to help them to understand the importance of keeping themselves and others safe online.

Thank you in advance for your support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A Brinton'.

Mrs A Brinton

**HEADTEACHER**

**Aim High Be Proud**

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