SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2022

Welcome to the second Safeguarding newsletter of this academic year. We hope that you continue to find it useful and informative.

Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding is an integral part of school life and it is the responsibility of all involved in the lives of children to ensure that they are safe.

We have three Safeguarding Leads in school at this time – you can contact any one of them to discuss any safeguarding concerns or questions that you may have.

Name	Role	Safeguarding Role
Mr. B. McGregor	Head Teacher	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs J. Davies	Deputy Head Teacher	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs S Rushworth	SENCo	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Road Safety

Unfortunately, over the last couple of weeks we have had several incidents of children showing a lack of awareness around road safety.

We would kindly urge all parents, particularly Year 6 parents, to both model and ensure that your children know how to cross the road safely and understand the importance of not being on mobile phones as they cross the road. We have witnessed children running out in front of cars and running across the road without stopping to check if the road is clear. Fortunately, we have had no serious accidents.

We would also ask that parents are mindful of the narrowness and speed restrictions along Church Lane. This is particularly important at the start and end of the day when children and parents are crossing to get to and from school.

In addition, when collecting or dropping children off, if parking directly outside the school, please ensure that cars are not double parked. It is important that the road remains accessible and that vehicles can get through at all times. We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

Online Safety

It has been brought to our attention that many of the children, particularly in Upper Key Stage 2, are accessing apps such as **WhatsApp** to keep in touch with their classmates. Unfortunately, on occasions, this is being used to send unkind and hurtful messages to one another. In some cases, children are being **added to groups without their consent**.

We kindly ask that not only do you continue to monitor your child's use of groups such as WhatsApp, but that you reinforce messages that we have shared in school around safe use of social media, including the impact on our own and other's mental health and well-being, cyberbullying and child-on-child abuse. Importantly, if you can reinforce that under no circumstances should anyone add a person to a group without their consent.

As a school, we are duty bound to report any concerns raised around child-on-child abuse that may take the form of online messages.

What Parents Need to Know about Social Media and Mental Health

Using social media has plenty of potential benefits for young people: it helps them stay connected to their friends, hear contrasting views on the world, find reassurance or support, and ease social anxiety. It also brings, however, a corresponding number of negative possibilities – including compulsive use, unhealthy comparisons with others online and exposure to harmful content.

Ironically – for a medium designed to enable engagement with other people – social platforms can actually lead to children feeling increasingly isolated and lonely, taking an obvious toll on their mental wellbeing. This month's guide has our top tips on how trusted adults can support healthier social media habits in young people.

According to Ofcom's 2022 Media Use and Attitudes report, six out ten children who use social media say that it makes them feel happy (59%) or closer to their friends (61%) "all or most of the time". By the same token, eight out of ten children were aware of other people being mean or unkind on social media, with 89% feeling pressure to be popular on the platforms they frequent.

Visit @natonlinesafety twitter feed for more information.