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Headteacher: Mrs A M Cheadle NPQH PGCE BA (Hons.)

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a series of online safety lessons, we are concerned that some of the children have 'friends' online that they only know from over the internet.

As you are aware, this is alarming that our children are talking to strangers. We urge you all to talk to your child about the risks of talking to people they've only met over the internet. We also encourage the children to un-friend and block these people.

The following information is from www.thinkuknow.co.uk and has lots of helpful information for both you and your child. The following is written for children so I urge you to share this with your child. For any further information, look at our school website under the 'Our Parents' tab and click 'Online Safety'.

Safer Internet Day is on Tuesday 5th February. Throughout this week, the children will be completing activities around permission and consent. On the school website, there is the Safer Internet Day resources for Parents and Carers. These include, conversation starters, quick activities, fun things to do, a factsheet and more.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Billington and Miss Dennett

Information from: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Whatever you like doing, if you use the internet you might have met people online who want to chat. They might leave comments on your posts or request to be your friend or follower. Maybe they say they live near you or like the same music as you.

With over 4 billion people on the internet there are plenty of people to meet. It can be fun chatting to people who are interested in the same stuff as us. Some people online will genuinely just want to chat or be friends. However, not everyone you chat to online will be who they say they are.

It's easy to lie online

Even if you've been chatting to the same person for ages and you feel like you know them, you need to remember it's very easy to lie on the internet. There is no way of knowing if someone is telling the truth.

It's a fact that there are some people who use the internet to chat to young people because they want to hurt them or make them do things they don't want to.

So, if you are going to chat to people you meet online here are some tips to help you do it safely.

REMEMBER – if someone makes you feel uncomfortable, worried or even frightened online you should tell an adult you trust, or report to [CEOP](#). Whatever may have happened you won't be in trouble.

1. Too good to be true?

Do they like all the same things as you and give you loads of attention? Are they really nice about things you post like photos? We all like attention and it's great to meet people who like similar things but remember some people use the internet to make friends with young people and then abuse their trust. If you think someone might not be who they say they are tell an adult you trust or report to [CEOP](#).

2. Giving presents and making promises.

Do they make promises or offer you gifts if you will do things for them? Giving gifts and making promises can be a way of putting pressure on you. If you feel under pressure to do something you don't want to do, you might be chatting to someone unsafe and should talk to an adult you trust.

3. Putting you under pressure.

Do they try to talk about things you're not comfortable with? Do they ask for pictures of you that you wouldn't share with your mum or your teacher? It's wrong for anyone to put pressure on you to do things you'd be embarrassed about or don't want to do. If anyone puts any pressure on you or makes you feel uncomfortable you should tell an adult you trust or report to [CEOP](#).

4. Leaving public places.

Have they asked to 'private message' or to add you on a social network or mobile app? Ask yourself, why do they need to chat in private? Games, chatrooms or forums are usually 'public places' where other people can see your conversations. Sometimes they will have 'moderators' who can look out for anything dodgy. You should keep your chat in a 'public place' to stop anyone from saying or doing anything weird.

If you do private chat with people you meet online be very careful not to reveal any information which could help them identify you in the real world like your full name, photos or your email address.

5. 'Just our little secret'.

Do they tell you to keep your chat secret? Do they say you'll be in trouble if you don't? If they ask you to keep secrets they might be trying to stop you from getting help if things get weird or you feel uncomfortable. You shouldn't keep secrets for people you meet online. If a secret is making you worried or anxious tell an adult you trust or call [ChildLine](#) on **0800 1111**.

