

Dear Parents and Carers

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

February 10th 2015 is **Safer Internet Day**, a day that is very important to our school and pupils. Safer Internet Day is run by the INSAFE network and is celebrated every year across Europe, and in other countries worldwide.

In the UK, Safer Internet Day is organised by the **UK Safer Internet Centre** ([www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)), and this year's theme is "Let's create a better internet together." Childnet International, who form part of the UK Safer Internet Centre, have produced an online safety presentation to help schools, parents and carers to support children and young people online.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, in preparation for **Safer Internet Day**, the children have received a presentation from the teachers and members of the local Police force explaining internet safety and how best to stay safe when online.

As a parent, you will have signed the e-safety agreement when your child started at Wentworth. This year, we have chosen to focus on internet gaming and social media. Some key topic areas covered to stress the importance of this were as follows;

- 83% of children worldwide play online games.
- One in four 11-16 year olds say that mature rated games are their favourite.
- Games require children to stick to the rules and can increase their capacity for self discipline.
- Gaming comes second on a list of things children from the EU like to do.
- Making sure people you "add" or "accept" are actually friends in real life.
- Not putting personal information onto any social media site.
- Understanding how to use privacy controls and being able to set these to restrict the viewing of your profile.

We feel there are great positives from using the internet in the right way and it can be enjoyable for everyone. **Safer Internet Day** allows a platform to begin to tackle some tough conversations with your children.

During the presentation the children went through some of the key steps to follow while using the internet. We discussed case studies and how we would use the steps to help us.

<b>SAFE</b>	Keep your personal information safe
<b>MEET</b>	Friends made online are strangers; meeting them can be dangerous
<b>ACCEPTING</b>	Accepting files can be dangerous. If unsure, ask an adult!
<b>RELIABLE</b>	Not everyone or everything online is reliable or trustworthy
<b>TELL</b>	Always tell an adult if something online upsets or worries you

Working together with school, home and community support allows us to tackle difficult challenges like this head on in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We need to encourage safe and sensible use of a great online resource.

We suggest some things that might be of use to you and your family at the moment, if only to discuss:

- Open dialogue with your child
- Family agreement
- Consider filtering and blocking software
- Think before you/they post
- Understand the laws
- Privacy settings and reporting
- Save the evidence and report the incident
- Age ratings on apps and games
- Protect their personal information

Thank you for reading and talking this through with your child. Should you have any further questions, please visit [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) or alternatively make an appointment with your child's teacher.