



Education Resources
Executive Director Tony McDaid
St Peter's Primary School
Head Teacher: **Miss CL Mullen**

Monday 21st February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

In term two of this school year, January to April 2022, St. Peter's Primary School aims to raise pupil and parental awareness of 'Online Safety' through specific learning in technologies. Children will be provided with opportunities to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the safe use of digital devices and encouraged to discuss this learning with their parents/carers and families at home. Children will be made aware of the importance of 'online safeguarding' and advised to share any online concerns with their parents/carers or a member of school staff. Children will be provided with a strong recommendation not to interact online with platform users they do not know and who have not been approved by their parents/carers.

As a result, the school is delighted to be participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.*** online programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.

In the online assembly, the *Speak out. Stay safe.* messages are delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec.

We have studied the content of the materials and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of the programme, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme you can find information on the NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout or I would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have.

In addition, a range of helpful information is available online to support parents/carers to help their child(ren) to manage a range of digital devices safely at home and in their community. The Scottish Government recently launched its national Child Online Safety campaign. The campaign aims to increase awareness of the importance of online safety to parents and carers of children aged 8–11-year-olds and reassure and inform them that the skills they apply offline to help keep their children safe can be used to protect them online too.

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The campaign provides practical advice for parents and guardians on how to check and monitor their child's online activity by speaking regularly about online safety and taking an interest in what they do online; discussing and agreeing boundaries; setting safety measures. The campaign also provides clear signposting for parents and children towards additional support. The campaign includes Digital TV and radio coverage, social media activity, website advertising, and press coverage. A supporting hub at parentclub.scot/online-safety is packed with practical ideas and advice for parents to feel more confident and informed on the steps they can take to keep their children safer online.

Police Scotland recommend raising parental awareness of the availability of parental controls and specific age restrictions for use of online platforms e.g. 13 or over for the use of Snapchat.

Some helpful hints include:

- add parental controls to all digital devices.
- ensure children access age appropriate online sites or platforms only.
- monitor and track your child's communication online.
- set a rule that your child(ren) must request permission before adding individuals to group or personal chat facilities to ensure parents/carers have an opportunity to check that the person added is known to the child and parent/carer.
- remind your child not to communicate online with any individual they do not know.
- raise your child(ren)'s awareness of the dangers of sharing personal, family or school information or photographs online.
- encourage your child(ren) to report any online worries or concerns to a trusted adult e.g parent/carer/school member of staff.
- screenshot inappropriate communication and report to Police.

Please refer to the attached Cyber leaflets and the following links for useful information on protecting your child(ren) from online harm.

- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- <https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/>
- <https://www.parentclub.scot/online-safety/partner-resources>

The safety and wellbeing of all children at St Peter's is, as you will know, the core aspect of our ethos and these awareness sessions are designed to show the children how they can keep themselves and their friends safe when using their mobiles and when on-line.

Yours Sincerely

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