

Gawthorpe Community Academy Registered Office: High Street, Gawthorpe, Ossett, West Yorkshire, WF5 9QP

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Executive Principal Mrs A Mitchell Head of School Mrs P Clark Deputy Head of School

Mrs S J Vickerman

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thursday 1st February 2018

We held our internet safety day on Tuesday. Below are some of the children's comments about the day.

"We talked about which pictures are ok to post online and which ones were not" – Madena

"We learnt all about online bullying and how to prevent it" - Marisa

Further information about keeping children safe online can be found on our website under the parents section and then safety. We have also attached a letter regarding internet safety to this newsletter with some useful links.

Parents Open Morning

Next Tuesday we will hold our parents open morning where teachers will focus on the teaching of maths. We hope that you will come along to the morning. You will be able to see, first hand, how maths is taught in school and in turn this will help you to help your child. Parents are welcome from 9am to 10am.

School Dinners

Please find attached special menus for Friendship Day on Tuesday 13th February and World Book Day on Thursday 1st March.

We would like to remind parents that dinner money should be paid in advance or on the day at the very latest. If you would like to pay next half terms dinner money in full then it will be a total of £47.15. This does not include any existing credit or debit balances you may have. If you would like us to work out your balance individually then please contact the office. If your child does not have a lunch for any reason then the balance would carry forward.

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We are currently advertising for a Lunchtime Supervisor in school. Application forms are available from the Academy Office. If you would like more information then please see our website <u>http://gawthorpeacademy.co.uk/job-vacancies</u>. The closing date is 16.02.18.

Headlice

Headlice cases in school are on the increase and we need to try and break the cycle. Prevention is better than the cure! Just doing a weekly check of your child's hair can be helpful in preventing cases of headlice. Please see the attached leaflet from the NHS with some other helpful information.

Newspapers

We are in need of newspaper for our Sculpture Week in March. If you have any spare newspapers then please bring them in for us. We really appreciate any help you can give.

Regards,

The Leadership Team

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Mrs S J Vickerman Executive Principal

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National College National Support School



Mrs A M Mitchell Head of School

Mrs P Clark Deputy Head of School







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Dear Parent/Carer

Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Gawthorpe Community Academy. Online Safety is taught to all pupils and our curriculum empowers children to understand and be aware how they can to stay safe and behave appropriately online but we can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you.

Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep themselves safe and behave appropriately online. It's important that we are all vigilant when children are using the internet and act to ensure they are protected from people who may pose a risk to them. Children can accidently or deliberately be exposed to illegal, unwanted or unpleasant content, comments or activity online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this risk.

We know that new apps and sites appear daily online and it would be unrealistic to ask parents and carers to understand all of them. The sites and services that your child likes to use may change regularly, but the messages they need to keep themselves safe will remain the same – think before you post, be kind online and ask for help if something makes you feel worried, upset or uncomfortable.

If your child wishes to download a new app then we'd recommend considering some of the following points:

Listen

- Take an active interest in your child's online life and talk with them about how they use technology.
 Ask your child why they want to use the app? How did they hear about it?
 - Discuss with them how they will keep themselves safe and make sure they know:
 - How to block and report other users and content
 - To speak to a trusted adult if they see anything or something happens online that makes them feel worried, upset or uncomfortable.
 - About websites such as ChildLine and CEOP? <u>www.childline.org.uk</u> and <u>www.thinkuknow.co.uk</u>

Functionality

- Make sure that you understand how the app works so you can decide if you are happy for your child to use it. You may even wish to set up an account yourself first.
- Consider:
 - Does it allow video chat or the sharing of images?
 - Does it allow user to communicate with 'random' strangers?
 - Does it allow anonymous chat?
 - Does it allow in-app purchases?
 - o Can you restrict access to the content that your child shares?
 - How will your child's personal data be used by the app?

Reviews

- What do other people (i.e. other parents and carers) have to say about the app?
 - Ask your friends and family members or take a look online. You may be able to find reviews via search engines or using tools such as:

www.net-aware.org.uk and www.commonsensemedia.org

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Age Restrictions

- You can usually find age restrictions within the apps terms and conditions. This is not the same as the app/google store rating.
- The age limit for many popular social networking sites is thirteen. This is due to the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (COPPA). The age limit is not based on suitability of content and instead applies to any website, app or online service which collects, stores or uses children's personal information. Some apps will have age limits of 18+ as they are exclusively designed for use by adults.
- If children use apps that are aimed at an older age group then this may leave them vulnerable to being exposed to unsuitable content (including advertising), as well as being contacted by strangers.

Safety

- Many popular apps will have 'help' and 'safety' sections, either within the app itself or via its website. Some apps will even have content specifically designed for parents and carers.
 - <u>www.saferinternet.org.uk</u> has some useful parent guides which highlight safety tools on popular devices, and signpost to report mechanisms.
- Does the app have any privacy settings? If so then help your child to apply them appropriately for example is it possible to set the app so that only trusted friends can see information they post?
- Explore the block and report features. Can your child block or report concerning users or inappropriate behaviour?
- If the app doesn't have safety or help sections or doesn't provide the ability to report and block then you may wish to consider if it is safe for your child to use.

Boundaries

- Talk to your child about safe and appropriate online behaviour.
- Consider setting up a family agreement regarding how their internet use will be supervised and how long they can spend online. Resources to help can be found at <u>www.childnet.com</u> and <u>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/</u>
- Apply appropriate parental controls to all devices: <u>www.saferinternet.org.uk and</u> <u>www.internetmatters.org</u>
- Discuss your expectations about the types of content and information they should share online, rules relating to adding friends and meeting people in real life.
- Do they understand:
 - That content posted online should never be considered to be private and may be copied and shared?
 - That they should behave online the same as they would in "the real world" and be kind?
 - How to be secure online such as by using safe and strong passwords. You can visit <u>www.getsafeonline.org.uk</u> for more advice

If you are worried that your child is at risk of harm or criminal offence has been committed then you can report your concerns to the Police or Children's Social Care. Please do not notify suspicious profiles of your actions, as this could enable them to delete material which might be required for any Police investigations. You can contact the Police via 101 or via 999 if there is an immediate risk to a child's safety (additional advice can be found at https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice/online-crime-safety/online-safety/cyber-crime/advice-parents. You can also contact Wakefield Social Care Direct on 0345 850 3503. You can also report online sexual abuse to CEOP by visiting www.ceop.police.uk and using the "Click CEOP" reporting button.

As the School Designated Safeguarding Lead, I am available to discuss any help you may need or concerns regarding online safety that you may have.

Yours sincerely,

A.M. Mit chelly

Head of School





