Dear Parents/Carers

Please find below an email **sent from Hampshire County Council** regarding the use of technology. You can find additional support on keeping your child safe online here.

There was an incident recently involving younger teenagers in Hampshire, relating to inappropriate use of technology and grooming. Hampshire Constabulary has arrested and charged a man in connection with the incident. The email below is a helpful reminder to us as parents in helping to protect our children.

As a reminder, we are running a free internet safety parent workshop on Monday 15th Jan at 6:30pm.

Kind regards,

Charles Applegate

Head Teacher

With the Christmas holidays approaching and the prospect of children perhaps receiving digital media as a gift in some shape or form – tablets and gaming consoles, for example – we thought it would be an appropriate time to remind you about the responsible use of such devices.

Following, the recent news stories relating to the Police's increasing concerns about child exploitation through social media (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42224148), please do take the time to set up robust parental controls on devices and ensure that you set the passwords and codes so that only you know them.

There is some helpful advice relating to this on Hampshire County Council's website: https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/safeguardingchildren/onlinesafety

If your children are likely to be using the internet, you may find it helpful for them to be aware and to have viewed this website: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7/

Helpful advice is also available from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) website:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Aside from the risk of exploitation and cyber bullying, it is unfortunate in this day and age that content exists on social media that would be inappropriate, and potentially harmful, for young children to view.

*If you receive images or videos on Snapchat, Instagram, Whatsapp or via any other social media featuring people that are naked or are sexual in nature, these should be deleted immediately and **reported to the Police** on the non-emergency **101 telephone number**. Many people are still unaware that showing or sharing such images or videos with others could mean they are committing a crime. However, if a genuine mistake is made, it would be treated as such by the Police.*