Dear Parents and Carers,

At St. Catherine's, we take the safety of our pupils very seriously, including their safety whilst accessing the internet and internet-based apps and communication tools. We want this approach to e-safety to spread to the home online environment too and therefore want to share with you some tips and resources to help you guide your children and help you keep up to date in a digital world. Over this half-term, we will be emailing out weekly guidance to help unite our home-school approach and provide further ideas to keep children safe in the online world.

Alongside this, we are increasingly needing to support children with issues regarding e-safety and communication outside of school between children on different apps and online as negative interactions online can really affect their relationships in person in school too. Many of these are via interfaces which are not intended for primary-aged children. It is vital that we work together to ensure children are communicating with each other in the online world in the same respectful and compassionate way we promote in the 'real world' and in school.

We appreciate your support with this and are always here to help should you have any questions or concerns. We also appreciate that many parents already support their children very well in the online world and ask that parents help each other in sharing good practice and guidance within our school community.

Here are a few tips to help you keep your children safe online:
- Think U Know https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Primary/ is always a good place to start and there is a 'report abuse' button that it is important for children and parents to be aware of.
- Net Aware (NSPCC) is a great website to check apps and websites that your children may be using, or may want to use, to check guidance, age ratings, child safety modes, etc https://www.net-aware.org.uk/
- Another site that is helpful for parent controls is UK Safer Internet Centre - http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers . This site advises you to take four steps:
  1. Have ongoing conversations with your children about staying safe online
  2. Use safety tools on social networks and other online services, e.g. Facebook privacy settings
  3. Decide if you want to use parental controls on your home internet
  4. Understand devices and the parental control tools they offer in our Parents' Guide to Technology
- Digital Parenting is another useful website to look at – http://www.pitda.co.uk/
  There are three areas to think about:
  - WHO your child is talking to,
  - WHAT they're doing,
  - and WHERE they're going online
  Digital Parenting also advises you to set "ground rules" by making your own family IT policy.

As mentioned above, over the next few weeks we will be sending home specific guidance on different areas, but you will find the first set of information relating to YouTube, Fortnite and Tik Tok attached.

Thank you for your support. Please speak to your child's class teacher or to a member of the school's leadership team if you would like any further guidance or support or if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Quiligotti
Deputy Headteacher