



Head Teacher Mrs L Hackfath LLB (Hons) PGCE
Cooper Lane, Laceby, Grimsby
North East Lincolnshire DN37 7AX
Phone: 01472 318003 Fax: 01472 318009
e-mail: office@stanfordschool.co.uk
website: www.stanfordschool.org



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Dear Parents,

RE:- On line Safety – Please Be Vigilant

To keep children safe online, the NSPCC has encouraged parents to talk to their children openly and regularly about their online activity. The charity says parents should set boundaries and discuss with them what is and is not appropriate to view online. Parents should also ask their children to write them a list of the sites they use and for both parent and child to explore the list together.

Be positive about what you see but if you do have any concerns about the sites they show you make sure these are flagged up.

With more and more children on social media at a younger age, the NSPCC also think it is important to make sure children know how to stay safe on social networks.

They advise parents to ask children the following:

- * Where reporting functions are
- * How to block someone
- * How to keep information private

There is currently an online game called Blue Whale, which originated in Russia which may be emerging in our area. The tasks the children are set range from watching scary movies in the early hours of the morning, self-harming and visiting high-rise buildings, train tracks, etc.

Some children can find it difficult to stand up to peer-pressure but they must know it's perfectly okay to refuse to take part in crazes that make them feel unsafe or scared.

Parents should talk with their children and emphasise that they can make their own choices and discuss ways of how to say no. Reassuring a child that they can still be accepted even if they don't go along with the crowd may also stop them doing something that could hurt them or make them uncomfortable.

We thank you for your support for taking time to check and monitor the on-line activity of your child/children in order to ensure their safety and well-being. Please feel free to share any concerns or information with School and we will endeavour to support as necessary. Please take time to look at the school website 'Safeguarding' section and 'E-Safety' page on www.stanfordschool.org as these include helpful and supportive information.

Yours sincerely,

LJ Hackfath
Headteacher