Safer Internet Day 2021

Tuesday 9th February marked Safer Internet Day; an annual event designed to raise awareness of Internet safety issues and encourage children to thrive online by being kind, conscientious and informed digital citizens. This year's theme, 'An Internet We Can Trust', focused on distinguishing between fact, fiction and opinion on the Internet.

Year R had a great discussion about what the word 'safe' meant to them, and talked about how to keep safe and what to do when they do not feel safe. This lead onto how we need to keep safe when using a computer or iPad. After hearing the story of Digiduck and the troubles he found with his online research, they made some important rules to follow when using the Internet. These included "Always let an adult know when you are using a computer or iPad"; "If you see something that makes you feel funny and unsafe, report it to your trusted adult" and "Make sure you are using websites which are good and safe, and don't believe everything you read or see on the internet!"

Year 1 were given some very dubious "facts" about owls and had to decide if they were true or false. They weren't fooled at all, and didn't believe for a second that owls can't fly and are afraid of rabbits! Listening to the tale of 'Detective Digiduck' and the incorrect animals "facts" that he found on the Internet lead us onto a discussion about how to check whether or not what we see online is fact, fiction or opinion. Their ideas included asking an adult, checking multiple sources online and double-checking information in a reference book.

Year 2 also enjoyed the tale of 'Detective Duck' and used the story to discuss ways in which they could fact check any information they read online. The children used this to research dogs and check some of the facts they had read. They also identified information on the Internet that may not be true and thought about what they should do if they found this. After reading about the rights linked to use of the Internet, the class had a really good discussion about access to education and how schools might need to help children without the Internet to access their learning. At school and at home, the children made duck masks and even wore these to their TEAMS meeting!

Year 3 participated in the BBC Live Lesson to explore this year's theme 'An Internet we trust: Exploring reliability in the online world'. The children then came together for a whole class discussion in the classroom and on TEAMS, and tested their Internet safety knowledge by playing 'Accept it, Check it, Block it'.

Some of the **Year 3** children were keen to share what they'd learnt:

Lyra: "It is important not to believe everything you read on the Internet because anyone can change it".

Charlotte: "You need to tell an adult if you are unsure about something you see on the Internet".
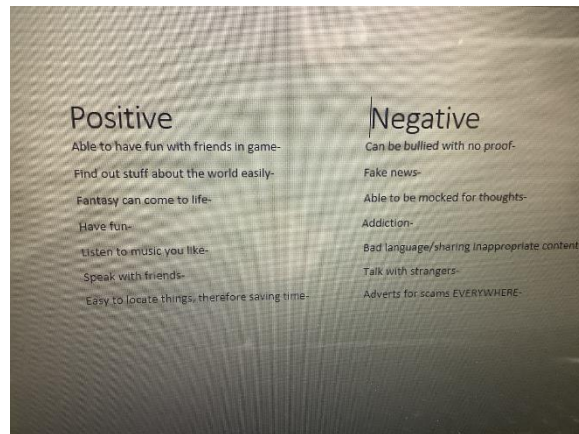
Lola: "Not everything on the Internet is true. If you receive something you are unsure about then tell an adult"

The children also made posters to display around the classroom to remind themselves about the importance of staying safe online.

Year 4 started the day by completing some of the Safer Internet Day activities on Purple Mash that focused on truth in advertising. On TEAMS, the whole class talked through their Internet Safety Charter and used the UNCRC 'Article of the Week' resources to link the Safer Internet Day theme to Article 17 of the UNCRC, which states that "Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources."

Years 5 and 6 both have pupils who are Cyber Ambassadors, children who have received special training enabling them to be Internet safety experts to their peers. **Year 6** watched the BBC live lesson and used the 'Article of the Week' resources to reflect on this year's theme. As a follow-up, they also completed one of the Purple Mash activities, which considered the reliability of a news story and the questions we should ask ourselves when viewing content online. Ella, a Cyber Ambassador for **Year 6**,

noted down her thoughts on the positive and negative aspects of the online world, and Elizabeth, a Cyber Ambassador in **Year 5**, wrote:

"For Safer Internet Day 2021, **Year 5** learnt how to identify scam phone calls. We listened to three calls and, using evidence, decided whether the person was actually someone from a bank or if they were stealing personal details to try and take money. We also looked at a newspaper article persuading people the world was flat. Based on the facts, we answered questions such as 'Does the text make sense?' We had a lot of fun on Purple Mash doing the activities for Safer Internet Day.

Full of fun, interactive activities and thought-provoking discussions, Safer Internet Day 2021 was a great success, and continued our commitment to making Internet safety a priority for all of our pupils here at Langrish School.