



Happy Safer Internet Day 2018

“Create, Connect and share Respect:

A better internet starts with you”

06-02-18

Dear Parents / Carers

I am sharing this blog posted today by Kentesafety. I hope you find it motivational and positive, providing us all with inspiration and ideas of how to use the internet safely.

Remember to check our school web site for e safety updates and useful advice. www.deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk. If you click on parents you will find a link to all our online safety information.

Today, Tuesday 6 February is Safer Internet Day; a day to celebrate and create a safer and a better internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

Safer Internet Day (SID) is organised by the joint Insafe/INHOPE network, with the support of the European Commission, each February to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology, especially among children and young people. Celebrated on the second day of the second week of the second month, each year on Safer Internet Day millions of people unite to inspire positive change and raise awareness of online safety issues and participate in events and activities right across the globe.

This year's theme of 'Create, Connect and Share Respect: A Better Internet Starts With You' encourages everyone to join the global movement, to participate and to make the most of the internet's potential to bring people together.

With a global, community-led approach, Safer Internet Day 2018 encourages everyone to join and play their part. There are many ways to do this:

- *Children and young people can help to create a better internet by being kind and respectful to others online, by protecting their online reputations (and those of others), and by seeking out positive opportunities to create, engage and share online.*
- *Parents and carers play a crucial role in empowering and supporting children to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively, whether it is by ensuring an open dialogue with their children, educating them to use technology safely and positively, or by acting as digital role models.*
- *Teachers, educators and social workers can help to create a better internet by equipping their pupils and students with digital literacy skills and by developing their critical thinking skills, which will allow them to better navigate the online world. They can empower them to create their own content, make positive choices online and can set a personal example of online behaviour for their pupils and students.*
- *Industry can help to create a better internet by creating and promoting positive content and safe services online, and by empowering users to respond to any issues by providing clear safety advice, a range of easy-to-use safety tools, and quick access to support if things do go wrong.*



• *Decision makers and politicians need to provide the culture in which all of the above can function and thrive – for example, by ensuring that there are opportunities in the curriculum for children to learn about online safety, ensuring that parents and carers have access to appropriate information and sources of support, and that industry are encouraged to self-regulate their content and services. They must also take the lead in governance and legislation, and ultimately ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people through effective child protection strategies for the online world.*

Everyone has a responsibility to make a positive difference online; we can all promote the positive by being kind and respectful to others and seeking out positive opportunities to create and connect. We can all respond to the negative by reporting any inappropriate or illegal content.

Today we encourage all educational settings, professionals, parents/carers and children and young people to join in and celebrate. After all - a better internet starts with us!

Thank you for coming to watch the children and pupil presentations for KS 1 & 2 today.

The world of the internet can be an exciting, intimidating, educational, functional place for us all and it seems to be endlessly changing. Please work together with us at school to help keep all of us safe and informed. Thank you.

A moment for reflection.

Heavenly Father

Thank you for giving us technology that opens up your wonderful world.

Empower us to have the courage to speak out when we see intimidation or exploitation. Help us encourage everyone to keep safe on line.

We ask that our words are always kind and supportive towards each other in the way your Son Jesus Christ taught us.

Help us to show dignity, respect, compassion and kindness in all our actions.

Amen.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday next week. Don't forget it is Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) on Tuesday 13th, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day on Wednesday 14th, and then Chinese New Year on Thursday 15th, so there is no reason to feel bored and lots of reasons for a treat!

I look forward to Term 4 which starts on Monday 19th February.

Kind regards

Justine Brown

