



## SAFER INTERNET DAY 2021.

[Safer Internet Day](#) will be celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021, with the theme: *'An internet we trust; exploring reliability in the online world'*.

Dear Families.

Every year Deal Parochial School has taken part in the [National Safer Internet Day, better known as S.I.D.](#)

We believe it is a very important part of our collaboration and family support. The digital divide, (the gap between young people/teenagers and those of above 30 year plus) is vast. In so many ways, I know that I depend upon my teenage daughter for assistance in finding my way through the online world. It is amazing and it offers so many fantastic opportunities. But of course, it also brings a darker side that all of us need help in protecting ourselves from and in building up our knowledge and a savvy outlook in order to keep ourselves safe from. There is such a long list of potential dangers such as: - fraud, exploitation both criminal and sexual, online grooming, addiction, trolling, online bullying and gambling. We may need help to know how to keep ourselves healthy in our modern day lifestyles, in keeping a healthy mind and a balance between real-life, exercise and sleep, and screen time. The dangers are very apparent and in everyone's home. But just like we teach children to cross the road safely, we need to teach each other awareness to internet dangers, how to keep ourselves safe and what to do if we feel threatened or worried about something.

One of the things that repeatedly happens for children at primary schools is low level online bullying and pranking. Pranking is where someone says something which may be shocking or as a dare and a joke, but often at someone else's expense. It can put someone else at risk of copying or worrying about it.

Young people often bottle up and don't talk about things they hear or read. We need to develop a climate where everybody can speak out without fear of being told off, or of recrimination. Young people fear peer pressure and of being laughed at. The most important thing for young people is friendship groups. If they think we are going to close down their access to friends, then they may become secretive and less likely to talk about things that they are worried about.

I want to make it as easy as possible for our young people and everybody to let go of the stigma of asking for help and talking about worries and to know they have people around them who they can trust. In this way, we can have an internet that we can trust.

**Remember, when children make the wrong decisions and choices they are just learning and mistakes are so easy to be drawn into. Let's not blame or chastise – let's support and grow trust and awareness, grow empathy and understanding.**

Online safety is a regular part of our weekly curriculum, but it also needs an extra boost in order to keep all of us oldies up to date on the changes and new hazards that we need to protect our young people from.

Next week as we unfold S.I.D, we are offering each class a **carousel of activities that children can complete**. We will provide the same activities and tasks to both home and school learners.

We would like to gather some fab examples of pupil voice, ideas and experiences in order to put on the website as a guide for everybody to share.

Assignments will be set on Teams to allow pupils to add their pieces of work, whether this be a computer-generated file or a photo of what they have been up to.

We would also like to create a whole school '**Internet Pledge**' – like the code of conduct that we all use for PSHE.

The children will be asked for suggestions during their daily catch up sessions. We aim to capture ideas from the children as to what they think we should have written in our school pledge. How should we use the internet? What rules should we follow? How should we get for when we are worried? We can then compile ideas from every class for the whole school to use.

**Community news and resources to share. Please click the links and look on our school website**

### **Preventing radicalisation through online news**

As you are no doubt aware there has been significant media coverage of the Napier Barracks over the last few days and this has led to a substantial increase in activity by extreme far right groups and commentators on local social media in Folkestone and the surrounding South Kent area in online chat groups as well as mainstream media, both local and national.

To minimise the potential safeguarding risk and help parents navigate the difficult topics of online hate, extremism and fake news and minimize the risk they can pose, I have attached a guide for sharing with parents and carers.

The guide fits in perfectly with this year's Safer Internet Day theme: **An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world.**

You will find the guide on our website, under the Online Safety tab. It is interactive and has information, links, and resources to help protect children and young people from online hate, extremism, and fake news as well as help parents and carers:

- Understand the risks and issues.
- Know where to get help.
- Find resources.
- Develop practical strategies.
- Start conversations.
- Build children and young people's digital resilience

### **UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC)**

The campaign focuses on how we decide what to trust online and explores how influence, persuasion and manipulation can impact young people's decisions, opinions and what they share online.

It also looks at the emotional impact of navigating a misleading online world and the importance of creating a supportive, critical, questioning culture, and giving young people the skills to spot misleading content and support one another online.

To help educators to deliver practical and impactful activities for Safer Internet Day, the UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) have created a [range of free resources](#), including films, lesson plans, assemblies, quick activities and more!

UKSIC have also a [parent/carers pack](#) which includes activities, conversation starters and information to help parents and carers talk to their children at home about how to navigate the issue of reliability of information online in a safe, responsible and engaging way.

Parent Zone are offering a [Digital Parents' Evening](#) on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 4.30pm. Follow the link to find out more information about how you connect and find out more about screen time, online risks and keeping your child safe.

Below you will find some live links for you to save and use when you find the need or wish to find out more. These are reliable websites that we use to support the teaching and support for Online Safety. You will find many more on our Online Safety policy that is updated annually and can be found on our school website.

[NSPCC Online Safety](#)

[Net Aware - 8 tips for keeping you kids safe online during lockdown](#)

[Thinkuknow - Parents' Page](#)

## Awareness Films to watch with your children

Thinkuknow provide a range of short films for young people aged 4-18 and for those with special educational needs covering lots of different ways in which they can keep themselves safe both online and offline. You can use them to help start a discussion with your child.

Here is the link for different parts of the web site that may help you at home.

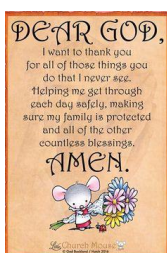
[Thinkuknow - Videos to watch with your children](#)

[Thinkuknow - Home Activity Packs](#)

Let's work together to have an interesting, and worthwhile S.I.D event that has a lasting impact on keeping our children SAFE, HAPPY and HEALTHY in their relationships and life style. Together let's build up trust to educate, support, offer advice and hope.

Our school Christian values play such an important role in our actions and online safety.

**KINDNESS, TRUST, RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP, COURAGE and FORGIVENESS.**



Keep safe everyone and enjoy the World Wide Web.

Kind regards

Justine Brown

