



John Ray Infant School

"learning together, aiming high, proud to be ourselves"

Notley Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1HL

Telephone: 01376 323071

Email: enquiries@johnrayinfants.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher:

Mrs Kate Mills

June 14th 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Following on from our E-Safety awareness day today I thought I would bring to your attention a few things that the children spoke about which we found worrying.

One child stated:

"My mum says it's ok to talk to strangers if they are 6 or 7 because they aren't dangerous".

There is good evidence that many dangerous individuals target sites where they know children will be playing and then pretend that they are a child themselves. There is no way to be sure that your child is not talking to an adult.

Many of our Key Stage One children talked about using Snapchat and Instagram. The minimum age is 13 for Snapchat, in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). If you download it, Snapchat will ask for your date of birth, and—if your birth year tells it you're under 13—you're redirected to the kid version, called "SnapKidz." Large numbers of our children however, were saying that they use one of their parents or older siblings phones for Snapchat.

Lots of our children are still talking about playing 'Five nights at Freddy's'. One child said it gives him nightmares and another said it "freaks him out so he can't sleep".

Many of our Year Two children also talked about playing 'Fortnite', again, the age restriction for this is 12.

More than half the children in all of our classes said that they have access to phones (with internet access), iPads etc. We recognise that with the appropriate restrictions, use of this equipment can be both safe and educational, however we know that this is not always the case and that it is all too easy for children to gain access to inappropriate materials which can put them at risk of coming into contact with unsafe adults or materials that are not suitable for their age.

Our school website has up to date links to provide you with support and guidance on keeping your child safe online. We also add the most recent updates from the 2 Johns Facebook page onto both our website and our school Facebook page. The 2 Johns spend much of their time reviewing websites and games to check they are safe and then feed this back to schools and parents. I would highly recommend a regular visit to the following link.

<http://www.esafetytraining.org/>

If you require further support or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Kate Mills
Headteacher

