



Gloucestershire Education Authority

Kingsholm C of E Primary School and Nursery
Guinea Street, Gloucester GL1 3BN
Tel: 01452 530777



E-mail: admin@kingsholm.gloucs.sch.uk

Website: www.kingsholmprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S Matthews

Deputy Headteachers: Mrs L Potter and Mrs H Hanson

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Stay Safe Initiative – children keeping safe online

Technology is constantly changing and we all know that spending time online can pose lots of potential risks and concerns. To allow you to help your young people keep themselves safe online, whilst at the same time allowing them to be independent digital users, we are running a live, online safety parent/carer presentation on 08.02.24 at 3.30pm until 4:30pm in the Oak Hall. **We would love to see everyone.** A teacher will run an activity for your children whilst you are attending the session.

We know that many feel overwhelmed trying to keep up with the constant evolution of games, apps and social media platforms and are quite often understandably worried about cyber-bullying, online grooming and what children are sharing online. During this session, Richard - from The Stay Safe Initiative - will be helping you to understand your children's 'online lives' a bit more. We will be exploring what they are doing online, understanding the risks, and providing straight forward help and advice to keep everyone at home safe.

To put this into perspective, we have recently gathered some information based on our Year 5 and Year 6 'online lives':

1. 43% of the children asked spend 3 or more hours online each day.
2. Children are playing games online that are not suitable for their age range e.g. Red Dead Redemption, Grand Theft Auto and Call of Duty.
3. 37% of the children asked have their own social media account.
4. 52% of children asked play online against people they do not know.
5. 25% of children asked talk online to people they do not know.

There are also some alarming national statistics that underscore the urgency of this matter:

1. Reports of child sexual abuse imagery involving primary school children online have skyrocketed by 1500% since the onset of lockdown, as reported by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF).
2. The NSPCC's 2022 report reveals an 83% surge in online grooming crimes against children in the past four years.
3. Additionally, the Anti-bullying Alliance reports that 1 in 5 children has experienced some form of online bullying in the last 12 months, and a concerning 72% of those who endure online bullying also face it at school or during school hours.

These statistics are not intended to instil fear, but rather to emphasise the necessity of us all to be aware of what is going on in our children's 'online lives' and be equipped with the right guidance to keep our children safe. With everyone's commitment, we can work towards reducing these alarming statistics and ensuring the digital well-being of our children and families.

We look forward to hopefully seeing you on Thursday 8th February at 3:30pm.

Yours sincerely,

John Edwards – Assistant HeadTeacher

Our Kingsholm Family, diverse, curious and kind, supporting and inspiring each other to reach our goals and shine.

