WHITMORE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Halford Lane
Coventry CV6 2HG

Tuesday 29th November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

MovieStarPlanet

It has come to our attention that several children are playing an online game called **MovieStar Planet**. On the website's guidelines, it states that it is only suitable for use by people **aged 8 and over**. On the NSPCC's NetAware site, their independent panel recommends that this site is only suitable **for people aged 13 and over due to the risks associated with playing.**

MovieStarPlanet is an online game where players can create famous movie star characters to talk to others in a chatroom, play games and watch videos.

There is no way for the website to check if a person is who they say they are; **an adult male could pretend to be an eight year old girl – become friends and then arrange to meet**. **This has happened to a child in our Federation.**

Whilst using the website, it is difficult to find a way of reporting **inappropriate content** and the website does not appear to have any way to make a user's account private.

During your child's PSHE and Computing lessons, we **teach strategies to help them stay safe**. We also work closely with organisations such as Barnardo's and The Children's Society to educate our pupils about their safety. We also hold **regular online safety information sessions** at school for parents and carers so please get in touch if you would like to attend.

If you would like to know more about the websites and apps your child(ren) might be using, the NSPCC's website **www.net-aware.org.uk** has lots of useful information and tips about how to talk to your child(ren) about staying safe online.

We have provided some tips on the reverse of this letter to help you protect your child online.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Roberts

PSHE Leader (Personal, Social and Healthy Education)

Staying Safe Online

Explore sites and apps together.
- Talk about what might be OK for children of different ages. Ask your child what sites or apps they like. Write a list and look at them together.
- Be positive about what you see, but also be open about concerns you have: "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here".
- Talk to your child about what you think is appropriate – but also involve them in the conversation. Ask what they think is OK for children of different ages – they'll feel involved in the decision-making.
- Explain that talking to strangers isn't always 'bad' but they should always be careful about what they share and sometimes people aren't who they say they are.
- Be aware that your child might talk about friends who use apps or visit sites that you've decided aren't suitable. Be ready to discuss your reasons but recognise that they may not agree with you. Listen carefully for the reasons why.
- Go through a final list of sites you both agree are OK and work out when you'll next discuss it.

Talk about things they might see online which make them feel uncomfortable.
- Ask about things they, or their friends, have seen that made them feel uncomfortable:
  1. Be specific. What exactly made them feel uncomfortable and why? Is it people or animals being hurt? Nasty comments about others?
  2. Link these to things in the real world, and explain that you're always here to protect and help them online and off.
  3. Reassure your child that they can always talk to you about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.
  4. Show them how to report or block on the sites and apps they use. Use Net Aware to find out how.
  5. Tell them you'll help them to report anything upsetting they've seen, or to deal with online bullying.