Information from school newsletter 6.17: e-safety for parents

Social media for children

There continue to be concerns about the way in which young people are using social media and the impact on their well-being. Apparently there is evidence of mental health being jeopardised by social media (see link below):
https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/may/19/popular-social-media-sites-harm-young-peoples-mental-health?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Although as a school we can support children's understanding of e-safety, it is down to parents to be aware of their own child's access to sites and to protect them, which is really tricky. Our website now has some NSPCC e-safety guidance which may be useful.
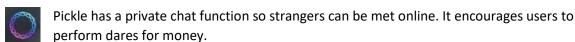
Although many of you might believe that this information is premature for children at primary school. We are aware that many of those in key stage two are already accessing sites, including YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook as well as others. The children, themselves, are extremely naïve about the risks that they present.

Monitoring of mobiles regularly is an important aspect of ensuring children's safety. Are you aware that of these APPs?

Snapchat: photos and messages sent to contacts which again seem to disappear but can be screenshot and re-distributed.

Poke: similar to Snapchat, connected with Facebook. Images seem to disappear after seconds.

This is a messaging app. There is a risk of communicating with others beyond the children's own contacts so is **as risky as an online chat room**.

Pickle has a private chat function so strangers can be met online. It encourages users to perform dares for money.

Instagram is really popular. It is rated 13+. Many children are unaware of the need to alter privacy settings to block **sharing their location** from unknown users.

Yellow is a dating app for children! It encourages them to **link with strangers**.

A key message, coming from experts, is to keep a dialogue with your children. Consider allowing them to 'confess' to anything that worries them (or makes them feel uncomfortable) without fear of being told off. By discussing APPs which are worrying you and the risks, it may help to keep them 'on side'. Ask your child to let you know before they download new Apps, even free ones, and go through security settings with your child to help them.

The police can give advice (on 101) if you find anything which is potentially harmful. CEOP is another way of reporting concerns (https://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/).