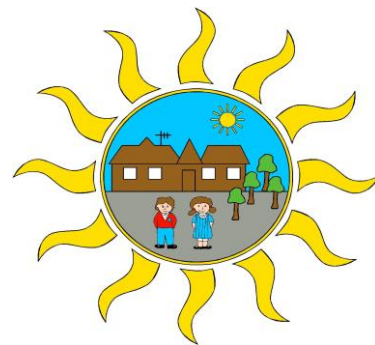


STEDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher
Mrs Sally Dreckmann

Wednesday 6th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may know from my email last week, yesterday was National Safer Internet Day. Our KS2 children spent the morning together revisiting online safety, looking specifically at the do's and don'ts of online behaviour and what negative behaviour would be classed as 'trolling'. KS1 and 2 also attended an online safety assembly led by Mrs Hines.

Co-incidentally, this morning it was brought to my attention that there was a discussion going on between parents on the FOSS Facebook page last night about unkind online behaviour taking place out of school between some of our upper KS2 pupils. I was already aware of this because the parent had brought it to my attention in the morning for advice. Online behaviour out of school is out of our jurisdiction unless it is then continued in school, in which case it can then be dealt with as per our behaviour policy. In light of these concerns, I felt it a good time to remind all parents how situations like these can be dealt with. The following information comes from the Webwise website:

- **Support:** Provide the person being bullied with support and reassurance. Tell them that they did the right thing by telling.
- **Evidence:** Help your child keep relevant evidence for investigations if necessary. This can be done by taking screenshots or printing web pages. Do not allow the deletion of phone messages.
- **Inform:** Give your child advice for making sure it does not happen again. This can include changing passwords, contact details, blocking profiles on social networking sites or reporting abuse online.
- **No Retaliation:** Ensure your child does not retaliate or reply with any unkind messages.
- **Privacy:** Encourage your child to keep personal information private on the internet.
- **Investigation:** The cyberbullying claim may need to be investigated fully. If the perpetrator is known, ask them to remove offending remarks or posts. All records should be kept as part of any investigation.
- **Report:** Abuse on social networking sites or through text messaging needs to be reported to the websites and mobile phone service providers. This specific case was on Xbox Live; the following link is a useful guide on how to report on this platform:

<https://www.tomsguide.com/us/report-abuse-on-xbox-live-xbox-one,review-3617.html>



A University of Chichester
ITT Partner School

If you're worried about your child being bullied online or want to discuss a concern you can visit the NSPCC website <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> or call their helpline for parents at any time on 0808 800 5000.

One last thought – it was clear from the KS2 work yesterday that a significant number of your children are playing games that are not age appropriate and are accessing online communities such as Xbox live without privacy settings so anyone could (and indeed does) talk to them. I am not going to tell you how to parent your child but please, just be aware of what they are doing and who they are engaging with. Perhaps instead of headphones, consider routing the sound via the TV so you can hear what is said. Maybe move PCs, laptops and consoles into communal areas so you can monitor what they do until they are a bit older. Just some food for thought...

As a school we are always happy to advise and signpost you regarding things that are happening online outside of school. If you believe that the online bullying is then continuing in the school context, please make an appointment to discuss with us so we can investigate and if necessary, deal with it as per our policies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Dreckmann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Yours sincerely" text.

Sally Dreckmann