

A QUICK NOTE FROM DEREK THOMAS MP

I am writing to draw your attention to a new initiative launched by Facebook called the 'Parents Portal' which aims to help parents, guardians and teachers to be better informed about child safety online.

Children spend on average 3.4 hours a day on their smartphones and nowadays 62% of 11 year-olds have a Facebook profile.

The Parents Portal, which has been created by Facebook, their safety partners and parents around the world tries to answer some of the many questions surrounding the internet. This online platform provides an important resource with a Bullying Prevention Hub, important Parenting Tips, advice and important links to safety experts and the full Parents Portal can be found at www.facebook.com/safety/parents.

You may be aware of this, if not I hope you will find a way of communicating it to your pupils and parents. You will find helpful graphics available on the site which could be useful for a school newsletter. Please find the following comment from me for use on your school newsletter if you choose to promote the Parents Portal in this way.

"Social media has become an increasingly important part of daily life for many of us. This Parent Portal is a welcome tool for parents and guardians who want their children to enjoy this form of communication safely which is why I am so keen to promote it."

Kind regards,

Derek Thomas MP