Friday 13th September 2019

Dear Parent/ Carers,

Following the introduction of e-safety newsletters last year, we will continue to update you this year with useful information regarding internet safety. This term focuses on WhatsApp, Instagram and Airdrop.

WhatsApp Hack
You may have seen in the news over the last couple of weeks about a new WhatsApp vulnerability. The vulnerability is called 'Agent Smith' and it replaces the legitimate WhatsApp with a version designed to serve malicious ads. Some outlets are stating that only android devices have been targeted, others are reporting both android and Apple (iOS). If you suspect that you may have been affected, uninstall WhatsApp immediately and reinstall from the App Store or Google Play, both of which are trusted to provide the legitimate WhatsApp app.

Instagram Update
A new update to Instagram uses artificial intelligence to detect if a post is similar to previously reported inappropriate posts, and if so, the user is served with a notice asking, "Are you sure you want to post this?". The user can then decide to change the post or just post anyway. It is great to see social media giants beginning to take action to make users think about what they post. You can read more here:
https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/instagram-update-bullying-trolling-facebook-teen-safety-online-a8996961.html
Attached to this newsletter, there is also a PDF from the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Board about Instagram that you may find useful.

Airdrop
AirDrop is a feature on Apple devices that lets users instantly send files to other Apple devices that are close to you. It is not an app or a type of storage; it simply enables the transfer of files such as images and videos - rather like Bluetooth. To use it a person selects that they want to share a file, such as a picture on their iPhone, then selects to share via Airdrop. They can then select anyone who has Airdrop on nearby and send them the file. The receiver then gets a notification and chooses whether to accept or decline the file. This is potentially open to abuse as people can send unwanted content to those nearby. The advice we are giving is to only turn on AirDrop if they are expecting a file and to not open an AirDrop if they are sent one, unless they know what it is.

We hope you find this information useful in protecting your family online.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Kilby

Computing and E-Safety Lead