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08.02.18

Dear Parents/Carers



Parent E-Safety Information Meeting
Wednesday 14th February at 2.15pm

Further to our recent invitation to the Parent E Safety Information Meeting and in response to some parent enquiries, we would like to offer some further details around the arrangements and content of this meeting and forthcoming children's workshops.

As this term's PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) focus is about Health and Well-being, our aim is to develop a pastoral approach to E Safety and support children's understanding of the personal, emotional and social aspects of keeping safe online, with the core theme being; 'Create, connect and share respect.'

The focus for Key stage 1 is very much on understanding the rules for ways of keeping emotionally and physically safe, including responsible ICT use and online safety.

For Key stage 2 the strategies for keeping safe online include the importance of protecting personal information, including passwords, addresses and the distribution of images of themselves and other people. In addition, during children's weekly computing lessons, Mrs Ellsmoor will also continue to follow a consistent and age appropriate programme of educating the children about aspects of staying safe online.

We have invited, Alison Hardy, from the organisation, Wirral Youth for Christ, to give a short presentation, using the DARA programme, (Drugs, Alcohol and Relationships Awareness) to the children, in their key phases, on the aspects outlined above. The parent information meeting, on 14th February, aims to give parents an opportunity to share and review the topics that will be discussed with the children on the following day, enabling parents to make an informed decision as to whether they wish their children to participate in the activity. The meeting will also aim to provide parents with safety tips, advice and useful resources to keep children safe online. We will make any presentation materials available, digitally, to those parents who are unable to attend the parent meeting, so that they can also make an informed choice.

Avalon has had a long connection with the DARA programme in previous years, as do many primary and secondary schools on the Wirral. Visiting speakers, including Alison Hardy, have used the DARA programme to support our school in delivering many Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) related lessons and workshops for over five years. Some parents may remember that Alison led the workshops with our Y5 & 6 children last year, on Puberty and also on Drugs awareness.

From past experience in our use of DARA, delivering any such workshops, we have found them to be excellent; taking a sensitive and pastoral approach whilst equipping children with the age appropriate information they need. There has never been any sort of religious content or bias, since this would never be the intended nature or focus of the presentation given. As a further reassurance, whenever we invite





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a visiting speaker into school, they are vetted under strict regulatory and safeguarding requirements, along with the content of their presentation, which has to be approved by School, prior to the activity taking place. A member of staff is also always present during any visiting speaker presentation to children, for safeguarding purposes, and a presentation would certainly be brought to a halt, if it breached any of the school's policies, ethos or agreed content. Avalon is a non-denominational school and we always ensure that any visiting speakers are made well aware of this and ensure that this standpoint is reflected in the content of any presentation.

Following the Parent Information Meeting on E Safety, if any parent would prefer that their child does not participate in their age appropriate, E safety workshop, please notify the school office in writing.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Callaway
Headteacher

