



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the first edition of our Skylark Safeguarding Newsletter. We want to provide you with a termly letter which will help you to keep your child safe. In each of our Skylark schools we have policies and procedures in place to safeguard our pupils. In these newsletters we want to give you advice and signposts to further support your child, including when they are at home.

Safeguarding information boards

Outside each of our schools we now have a Safeguarding Board. This gives information about our Designated Safeguarding Leads, useful Local Authority contact details (including the telephone number for SPOA, the Single Point of Advice for referrals to Early Help and Social Care), Childline's telephone number, the NSPCC's Pantosaurus information, and a statement about Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse.

Listening to our children

Listening to our children is extremely important to us. In our school we have our School Council (and feeling safe at school is a standing item on each meeting's agenda), worry box and, of course, trusted adults. We want our pupils to feel confident about sharing any concerns they may have with someone that they trust in school. If you-or, of course, your children-have any further ideas about how we can listen to our pupils, please let us know; we would be very interested to hear from you.

Online safety and digital resilience

As our children increasingly navigate their way through the online world, we as parents and professionals, need to be ahead in this ever-changing world. There is so much information that it is sometimes difficult to know where to turn first! Covid has brought more challenges. Access to mobile devices has become easier for younger pupils. We want our Skylark pupils to have a strong voice in online safety. We want them to tell us about the positive things because this will open the doors to them telling us what their concerns are. The following links could help you and your child:

- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/support-your-child-at-home/>
- <https://static.lgfl.net/LgflNet/downloads/digisafe/Parent-Top-Tips-Safe-Online-Corona.pdf>
- <https://www.childnet.com/resources/online-safety-activities-you-can-do-from-home>
- <https://national.lgfl.net/digisafe/digisafe-daily>



These links are designed to provide top tips, resources, support and online safety activities you can do from home. They are all supporting you in building your child's digital resilience. A child is only as safe as their least protected friend as soon as they wander around with 3G, 4G and 5G access. To help them become more digitally resilient try these at home with your child:

- Start conversations about online lives early
- Establish clear boundaries about when/where they can use their devices
- Go online with your child-enjoy it!
- Show interest in what they are doing online but try to respect their privacy
- Try to promote resilience without completely shielding your child from all risks
- Choose age-appropriate apps and games
- Know where to report concerns
- Remember-3G, 4G and 5G mean your child can access materials elsewhere
- Listen to your children if they want to tell you anything worrying they experience online
- Establish rules for your children about being online at home
- Talk to your children about their own privacy settings on their devices and help them understand what other people can find out about them online.
- Talk to your children about what they like doing online-it's important to them!

We hope that this newsletter signposts you to some useful advice for keeping your child safe.

Best wishes,

Mr R Newlands
Head of School