Dear Parent,

At the start of a new school year I just wanted to draw your attention to a few key points in relation to E-Safety and Using ICT within school.

E-Safety

Online Safety unfortunately has again been in the media in recent months and regrettably issues of concern have been highlighted here in Northern Ireland over the summer with a case of inappropriate online contact through gaming. Thankfully the child in question stopped and told parents what was happening. This highlights the vital necessity for every parent and guardian to make themselves aware of what their children can access and see online outside of the school setting. From tablets to mobile phones and games consoles, the online option evidently enhances these devices, but it is important to have measures and controls set in place to avoid danger. Please also make sure your child is using age appropriate apps and games.

As ICT Co-Ordinator within school I feel it is my duty to highlight again the importance of E-Safety with you and let you know what we promote in school.

I have attached a copy of our Key Points E-Safety leaflet and trust you find this useful. Together we need to protect our children from these dangers. The internet can be amazing, but we must work together to ensure our children are always kept safe.

Some useful information can also be found on-

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

www.childnet.com/resources/know-it-all-for-parents

www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers

Keep an eye on our ICT Curriculum page on our website for other useful weblinks and resources that may be of use.

Using ICT

This year our focus in Term 1 and 2 will be to explore Film and Animation. In school all children will have the opportunity to take photographs, record videos and use in programs such as Photostory 3, Movie Maker and iMovie. Where possible teachers will connect these to topics. Of course, all pupils will be continually exploring and developing their ICT skills, and these will be evident throughout the classrooms and in displays. iPads, digital cameras, flip-video and microphones will also be used to enrich teaching and learning.

Please remind all children to ensure they always keep their passwords private! These will be required to log into the C2k system and other associated learning packages such as Accelerated Reading.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you that pupils can avail of downloading the full *Microsoft Office 365* package to home PC's or Laptops FREE of charge while they are in full time education. To do this you will need their username so please feel free to contact me and I can forward you the relevant help sheets.

Lastly, I have attached an <u>Acceptable Use Contract</u> which needs to be signed by all children and parents for this academic year. Please also complete the relevant boxes in relation to Photography and Videography. Please return by Monday 17th September.

I trust you find this information helpful and please feel free to contact me regarding any E-Safety or UICT issues.

Many Thanks

ICT Co-Ordinator