KS/ES

20th November 2018

**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to share with you some concerns around children in our school accessing games and internet content which is not suited to their age range.

In particular, I have recently become aware that some of our children are playing the online game Fortnite. In the UK the Video Standards council rate Fortnite as PEGI 12 for frequent scenes of mild violence. It is classed as not suitable for children under 12 years of age.

Fortnite is designed to be addictive and it is therefore easy for children to get hooked on playing it. We have had reports of children staying up late at night to continue playing or getting up very early to play when the rest of the family are still asleep. This obviously impacts on their learning in school as they are then too tired to concentrate in class.

We have also noticed an increase in the use of bad language which again we think is due to children accessing games and internet content which is not appropriate for their age range. Many online games including Fortnite have an in-game chat function which allows communication between players. This function can expose your child to inappropriate language and potentially pose more serious risks.

Please be vigilant in ensuring you monitor your child’s online activities and that you are aware of how long they are spending online. I attach some further information specifically about Fortnite which may be helpful to you.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mrs K Smith**

Headteacher