Useful websites:

💻 **UK safer Internet Centre** .
http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers

💻 **Think U know (CEOP)**
Information and advice, also has a reporting system for reporting incidents
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/

💻 **NSPCC**
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

💻 **Netaware (NSPCC)**
https://www.net-aware.org.uk

💻 **Common Sense Media**
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/social-media/what-age-should-my-kids-be-before-i-let-them-use-instagram-facebook-and-other-social
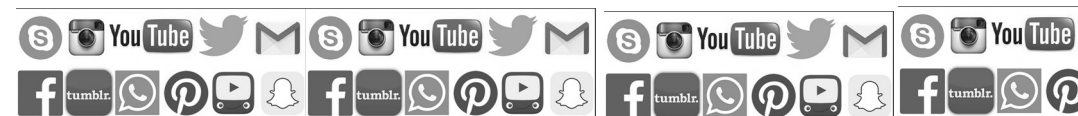
💻 **Childnet International**
http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers

💻 **Kidsmart**
http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/parents/

💻 **Internet Matters.org**
http://www.internetmatters.org/?gclid=CLXO_dzQkMwCFYMK0wodl74G3Q

Further information can also be found on the school website (under Learning >E-safety).

Please help us keep your children safe!

Feel safe, be safe with e-safe

Seely Primary School E-Safety

As you know it is our priority to make sure our pupils are safe at all times.

In the past few months we have seen an increase in the number of our pupils accessing social media sites such as Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat and Instagram, to name but a few.

We want our children to enjoy using the internet and there are many fun activities, apps and websites for them to access which can aid their learning and help them develop. It is, however, extremely important that our children remain safe.

Some current concerns that we have experienced recently are around the use of 'Snapchat':

♦ **Temporary messages**:
Some of you may be aware that when this app is used, any images or messages that are sent are instantly deleted, unless a screenshot is taken. When this happens the sender receives a notification. The temporary nature of any messages that are sent is a cause for concern as there is no evidence trail.

♦ **Tracking & traceability**
Within the app there is also a 'tracking' option which shows the users location. This means that any users that **don't** have this feature disabled are easily traceable. This is a safeguarding concern for young people that are using the app.

♦ **Friending**
Most apps require permission to be added as a friend and this maintains a level of safe-guarding for the users. However, Snapchat allows *anyone* to add anyone else as a 'friend'. As we know people don't always present their true selves on social media and may use a different gender, age, profile pictures etc to gain the trust of younger, more vulnerable users.

Please note that the age for using Snapchat is 13 years old (see overleaf). Using any app before the required age puts children at risk ,and it is important that we are all working together to safeguard our pupils.

It is important that, as parents, you develop **trust** relationships with your child early on so that they can talk to you about any content or messages they might receive.

This includes checking your child's phone, computers or tablets regularly and being aware of their computer use, including web histories. It's useful if you ask your child to show you their most recent activity. If you are unsure what to look out for please look at the websites included to help you.

If you notice that there appear to be **deleted messages** to or from your child, please ask why. Often these messages include inappropriate material that they or the sender do not want others to see.

These measures will help to ensure your child is safe online by:

- Ensuring they are only communicating with known friends
- Ensuring they are free from intimidation from others (cyberbullying)
- Ensuring any images that are posted on the internet do not make our children vulnerable i.e. photographs, videos
- Ensure that no other pupils from the school are identified in any way

As a school we take precautions to reduce the risk of any of these events happening within school, these include: -

- web-filtering that only allows children to access 'safe' websites
- monitoring the pupils' activity on computers and iPad's
- delivering e-safety lessons and assemblies
- providing information for parents through conversations, advice and e-safety sessions about how to protect children on-line
- sharing useful advice and information on the school website

We would like to reiterate the important role you play as parents/carers in ensuring that these measures are also in place at home. These are the times when children are free to explore the wider internet. Some of the social media sites have strict rules and regulations which limit the age at which children are able to create accounts. We would urge you to monitor your child's internet activity to ensure that they are free from harm at home too.

There are guidelines and age limits in place for most of the popular websites and apps that have been implemented to help protect and maintain safety for young children.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms
(Ages specified in terms as of 2014)

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Google+, Tumblr, Reddit, Snapchat, Secret — 13
LinkedIn — 14
WhatsApp — 16
Vine, Tinder — 17
Path — 18
YouTube, Keek, Foursquare, WeChat, Kik, Flickr — 18 (13 with parents permission)

Sherwood Police posted a message on Facebook stating:

We know that many children are using social media when 'officially' they are too young to sign up to the sites – we know because they tell us! Lots of them say that Mums and Dads have signed them up – sometimes years ago. We would like you to keep in mind that if you signed your 8 year old up to Facebook five years ago, saying they were 13 years old – they now appear as an 18 year old on the site.
If an adult tries to groom your now 13 year old via social media, they will be able to argue that they thought they were talking to another adult. Remember to update their details, check their privacy settings, and talk to them about which pictures they use for their profile, so they're safe online.

A very thought provoking message, we are sure you will agree!

Childnet state:

Our advice with regards to age restrictions is that it's always better to wait until the required age to join any social media service. These rules around age relate to privacy, but also are relevant to safety. Some services offer additional protection for users who are registered as under 18, and by supplying a fake age young people can potentially lose some of this protection. Young people also risk being exposed to content which is intended for older users when they use sites that are not designed for people their age. Additionally, if a service finds out a user is underage then they may delete the user's account and any content which has been shared.