



February 5<sup>th</sup> 2018

## E – Safety

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

At the end of last week, we had yet another reminder of just how vigilant we all need to be regarding keeping safe when using the internet.

Whilst using FaceTime, one of our Y6 children was contacted by a completely unknown person wearing a mask, who then went on to send her text messages. Fortunately, she was incredibly quick to tell her parents and not to respond, and the messages were not harmful other than to frighten her that someone she didn't know had contacted her in this way. The police have been informed, but there is little they can do. Keeping safe on line is very much our own responsibility. We are very proud of how our pupil reacted.

If something like this should happen to you, there are a number of things to remember:

- Don't answer any calls from unknown numbers.
- If you do answer, put your thumb over the camera so that you can't be seen until you know exactly who has contacted you.
- Make sure you are not putting your phone number onto any social media sites as that makes it so much easier for you to become a target.
- Parents / carers make sure that you are able to see everything that your child has access to. Don't let anyone have anything that can be hidden from you.
- Don't use any sites at all until you are the right age to do so.

Our pupil had done all of the above and was still targeted. Nothing 'bad' happened, but it could so easily if we are not doing all that we can to stay safe. We could organise a course for parents on keeping you children safe online if that is something that you feel you would like us to do. Please indicate using SIMs Agora if you would like us to look into it for you and say whether you would prefer this to be in school time or after school.

Many thanks,

Beverley McCallion



**ROWLANDS GILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Dominies Close, Rowlands Gill, Tyne & Wear NE39 2PP

Telephone: 01207 549 359 Fax: 01207 549 182 Email: [rowlandsgillprimary@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:rowlandsgillprimary@gateshead.gov.uk) Website: [www.rowlandsgillprimary.org](http://www.rowlandsgillprimary.org)

