

Great Whelnetham
Church of England Primary School
By growing together, we become the best we can be'



Chair of Governors: Ben Sear

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Dear Parents

We feel it is helpful for you to be informed that the children have spent an enjoyable afternoon with Simon Firth from Gripping Yarns listening to a story to raise their awareness of online safety. Mrs Parkin organised the 'Place of Safety' session as part of the PSHE and ICT curriculum. This has previously been mentioned on a newsletter but the following gives you a little more detail.

Place of Safety has been developed to highlight positive features as well as dangers associated with children's use of electronic communication media, such as mobile telephones, e-mail and the internet, chat room, instant messaging and social networking sites.

Place of Safety tells the story of Jordan, who is struggling to build new friendships when moving school after a necessary family separation. For Jordan, the internet, e-mail, chat and messaging offer an ideal way to keep in touch with old friends, and make new friends with interests similar to his own. He is befriended by an apparently more experienced chat room user, with whom he develops a friendship, and with whom he shares personal information and photographs. His trust in his new friend diminishes as he is pressured to allow greater degrees of contact and more personal information. Having already taken risks with his online friendship, he is too scared to tell anyone what has happened in case he gets into trouble and he is considering agreeing to his new friend's requests when a real-life friend from school uses online media to contact him, draw out his worries and offer suggestions for how to make things better with the help of their teacher.

The session may raise questions for your child and follow up conversations at home would be encouraged to reinforce online safety boundaries and rules within your families.

Staff will also be giving children the opportunity to ask questions and discuss anything they feel is relevant.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Kind Regards

Jane Segust
Interim Head teacher
Gt Whelnetham Church of England Primary School



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*Values for Life: Compassion, Courage, Friendship, Trust, Truthfulness, Hope, Peace,
Thankfulness, Creativity, Forgiveness, Humility and Justice.*