

TWERTON INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY

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Tuesday 6th February 2018

Dear Parents in Chestnut, Oak and Maple Classes,

Technology is ever changing and the on-line opportunities that are available today were not imaginable only a short time ago. It is hard to believe that **Facebook** is just 14 years old; **Twitter** is 11 years old, as is **BBC iPlayer**. Microsoft **Hotmail** was launched in 1996, **Gmail** in 2004 and **Google** in 1998. Social media and mobile communication are now an integral part of many of our lives.



Along with the benefits of these technologies, there are also several risks that children face including: cyberbullying, being targeted by strangers, invasion of privacy, identity theft, viewing inappropriate material and risks associated with gaming online. **As parents, it is vitally important that we understand these risks and that we are able to talk with our children to help them to learn to stay safe from harm.**

Tuesday 6th February is Safer Internet Day 2018 and to mark the occasion we are launching a new interactive game to help you and your child understand how to stay safe online.



We are providing every child in Year 1 and Year 2 with their own account for a new online game called, **Gooseberry Planet**. The game has been designed with young children in mind and covers the following topics: **People Online, Selfies, Webcams and Live Streaming, Online Gaming, Online Bullying, Purchasing and downloading Apps, Passwords, Sharing Photos, Sharing Information and Personal Information.**

The idea is that children and parents sit together to play the game. Parents may need to read the questions for less confident readers and this will give a way in for parents to talk with their children about the risks and important ways to stay safe. Each game should take roughly 10 minutes and the conversations that will then take place through the process should prove helpful to children and parents.

On Friday 9th February, Teachers will send home children's login detail, which will allow you to have a look at Gooseberry Planet during the half-term holiday.

Yours sincerely,

George Samios

Mr George Samios
Headteacher