



# Ryecroft C.E. (C) Middle School

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Headteacher: Miss R. Baramuszczak

1<sup>st</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

We probably all think we know about using the internet, so we urge you to put yourself to the test and join us to discover just how much you don't know! ***What we deal with in school is frightening!***

We are providing a parents'/carers' internet awareness session on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 6.00pm delivered by Barabarani Education Services, who will have provided age appropriate workshops to the children during the school day. **[NB: this parents' session is NOT appropriate for children]**

**Please return the slip below to indicate how many parents/carers will be attending.**

It is abundantly clear in all the media that children of all ages – from 5 - 18 years old - are being damaged now or for their future, because both they and we as parents are unaware of all the risks inherent in their use of the internet and mobile technology.

Some principles to remember:

- 1 The internet is a fantastic tool.... ***Anyone can do whatever they like with it!***
- 2 The most powerful tools (like a chainsaw) can cause incredible damage to the user and to others.... ***if they are misused - or abused.***
- 3 The internet and mobile technologies make fantastic toys.... ***Anyone can play with them!***
- 4 Who are these "friends" on-line? ***"A friend is someone you know a lot about,"*** yet we know so little about "online friends," with whom our children chat and play. Online you only know what someone chooses to tell you and what you can see.... ***It is all too easy to lie!***

Whilst there are some risky adults out there, in many ways it is much more likely that far more of our children will be harmed by their own actions or those of their friends.

Some principles to remember:

- 1 Unlike snow footprints, ***our cyber footprint will never melt away.... It will follow us and in fact outlive us.***
- 2 Many young people have failed to get jobs or to gain entry to University because of what is on their social network sites.... ***The more you share, the more that can be used against you.***

- 3 A *cyber footprint* could be really positive; showcasing talents.... **but amongst the positive images and information, will be silly photos from parties and intimate images sent to BF/GF!**

**They (and we) need to think before pressing the button marked SEND.**

These are just snippets of what we shall be covering, but the presentation “pulls no punches,” as there are many more even greater risks that children (& adults) are taking. **We aim to keep our children safe in the real world, so why not on the internet?**

I hope you will be able to join us on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017. As the trainer from Barabarani Education says, **“This is so important but can be a little frightening too.”**

Yours sincerely



Mr S Bardon  
Deputy Headteacher



Please tear off and return to the school office

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### Internet Awareness Session

Child's name: ..... Form/Class.....

Number of parents/carers attending the Internet Awareness session .....  
on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 6.00pm.

Signed..... Date .....

Email: [headteacher@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk)

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