Simonside Primary School
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Date: 29.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of our families who are trying so hard with Home Learning. We're delighted with the level of engagement we're having on Class Dojo. We recognise that circumstances are different for every family and that these can make home learning even more challenging. However, even when circumstances have been extremely difficult, we still have lots of work being uploaded - amazing! It's so important that we all work together to prevent children's learning falling behind. This is why we have such a comprehensive remote learning offer in place. Thank you to the staff for putting so much time and effort into all the extensive planning, all the videos posted daily explaining the tasks and all the daily interaction with individual children in the class – marking uploaded work and messaging parents/children. You can find our remote learning policy on our website which details everything we are trying to do to support our children and families.
https://www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk/website/remote_learning_policy/536577

If you are having any difficulty at all with home learning, please contact your child's class teacher on Class Dojo. Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hills are in school every day and can also be contacted via the school office. Staff have lots of tips and advice they can share with you so please let us know if you need anything. We will do everything possible to support your child's daily learning.

Online Safety

As the vast majority of our children are now engaging with home learning online, it is more important than ever that we work together to make sure they are using the internet safely. We'd like to signpost the following links that you may find useful:

The Net Aware website is produced by the NSPCC and can be accessed here:
https://www.net-aware.org.uk

This is part of the larger NSPCC website which offers a range of support to parents to support children through the Covid 19 pandemic. The last article posted on 12th January 2021 has '**8 tips for keeping your kids safe online during lockdown**'.

National Online Safety Website
https://nationalonlinesafety.com/

Parents and carers can get a free subscription to this website. It contains videos summarising for different age ranges what children may be accessing online. It also has lots of simple guides on a range of issues e.g. setting up devices, web browsing, gaming, social media and remote learning.
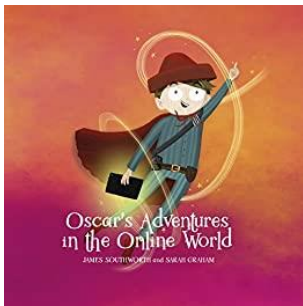
Oscar's Adventures in the Online World
This is a storybook for children which covers some main issues regarding online safety e.g. talking to people they don't know online, sending images etc.
https://www.whsschool.org.uk/media/1556/oscars-adventures-in-the-online-world.pdf

Childnet
This website has developed guidance for parents and carers to begin a conversation about online safety, as well as guidance on keeping under-fives safe online.
https://www.childnet.com/

Internet Matters
Internet Matters has some good, practical advice for parents e.g. setting up parental controls on gadgets, apps and devices.
https://www.internetmatters.org/

These are just a selection of many websites listed in our remote learning policy. If you need any further support with a specific issue, please contact us. We're here to help.

Thank you for all the lovely messages of support. Keep being brilliant!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hills