



Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents,

Some of you may be aware of the online game which is very popular with children called ROBLOX. This is a game which children can access through an app or desktop and earlier today, concerns regarding this game have come to our attention. I have spoken to children in most of our classes and discovered that many of our children enjoy playing this game but a significant proportion have stated that they do communicate with strangers and even, on occasion, receive unkind and inappropriate messages. I was shocked to discover that children in Year 1 also communicate with such strangers and have also received unkind messages.

For those of you who are unaware of the nature of this game, it is an interactive game where children take control of 'lego-like' characters and they can immerse themselves in many different worlds and settings. However, anybody can create a setting and any user can access this setting. At this stage, it is worth noting that Kent Police issued a warning this week relating to "inappropriate content", "messages that are inappropriate" and "characters that were doing very adult things."

Please can I encourage all parents whose children enjoy using the game, to log on with your child and check the nature of their friends list as it has come to light that a number of our children do communicate with strangers. Many of our children I spoke to also said that their accounts were 'maxed out' meaning they have over 200 online friends. I would also recommend that parents check your child's in game message inbox to check if they have been receiving inappropriate messages.

As a school, we constantly educate the children about on-line safety, in fact I even delivered a whole school assembly on Monday about how to keep safe online! In addition to this, pupils in Key Stage 2 will be the audience to the Saltmine Theatre Group this Monday, educating the pupils further about how to keep safe on the internet. We have also planned a Parent's meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 3.30pm for the purpose of educating parents on the dangers of online use for children. I would strongly recommend that you aim to attend this very informative meeting and you may be surprised by what your child is or could be accessing. We will be running a crèche for this event to support you and your child. We will be writing to you nearer the time to remind you of this very important meeting.

Many thanks for taking time to read this letter and should you wish to speak to the school further regarding online safety, we will always be happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Cruise



International  
School Award

*"Happy children, inspired learners"*

Shobnall Primary School, Shobnall Road,  
Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, UK, DE14 2BB  
Telephone: **01283 247410** Email: **office@shobnall.staffs.sch.uk**

