Cybersafety and Responsible Digital Citizenship

Dear Year 5/6 parents,

As you may be aware, this year the students have been undertaking specialist ICT lessons as part of their learning schedule. A major topic being explored by the Year 5/6 students is cyber safety and responsible digital citizenship. As participants in the 1:1 iPad programme, our Year 5/6 students have a powerful educational tool at their fingertips and have been enjoying the added benefits to their learning so far this year. We have several measures in place at school to support the students with their responsible digital citizenship and cyber safety, such as regular lessons on the topic, filtered Internet access and device management procedures. There are a few simple measures that we recommend for supporting the students’ cyber safety at home too.

Overuse and unproductive use can become an issue if not managed. It is recommended that devices be only used in ‘common’ areas of the house where other family members are present and not in children’s bedrooms. A lot of parents are enforcing an agreed time that the iPad is placed on charge for the night in an area other than the child’s bedroom. At school we regularly audit the students’ iPads for inappropriate content and it is also important for parents to keep a dialogue with their children about how they are using the device. This lets them know that we are aware of how they are using it and that we are supporting their cyber safety. For parents to maintain full control of the content on the device, it is recommended that all passwords and account information be held only by them. We do not ask students to download apps at school and parents are informed of any new apps that we request for the students’ iPads.

To ensure that our Level 4 iPad program remains engaging and current, we are frequently trialling and evaluating new apps that facilitate rich student learning. The following is our current list of apps that we ask all level 4 students to have on their devices. We have recently moved from the ‘required’ list to the ‘recommended’ list a few apps that aren’t being used in class anymore and added some new recommended apps for enhanced learning experiences for the whole family, including the new Mathletics App that can now be used offline. The list is also available on our website in the Notices section.

Regards,

David O’Kane | Kevin Oakey
eLearning Leader | Acting Principal