



## SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the winter edition of our new Safeguarding newsletter. Each term we will aim to share information and advice for parents and carers on issues we feel may be important to you.

**The Leys School Safeguarding team are**

**Mrs Khangura (Headteacher)**

**Mrs Clibbon (Family Worker)**

**Mrs Barr (Deputy Head)**

**If you need to discuss an urgent safeguarding concern please contact a member of the team.**

During the cold and dark winter months children inevitably spend more time online.

### Responding to online challenges

- **What are online challenges?**

Online challenges are social media trends where people are encouraged to take part in or mimic games, activities, or dares. Typically, these originate on platforms like TikTok, YouTube or Insta before spreading to other less well-known platforms. Some challenges or trends are reported in the press. The press will often use the term 'viral' which can give the impression the challenge is more widespread than it is.

**It is also important to remember not all challenges pose a potential risk - parent assessment is essential.**

- **Advice for parents/carers**

Talk to your child about online challenges

Have honest and open conversations about what they are doing online

Online habits can become hard to break if allowed to become entrenched.

If you feel your child has suffered from bullying or abuse online this can be reported to the school and the police.

Please take screenshots of the offending messages or pictures as this is useful evidence when we are investigating.

For further information and advice please see below and the E-safety section for parents on our school website.





# The Leys Primary & Nursery School

Ripon Road, Stevenage, Herts SG1 4QZ

T: 01438 314148 F: 01438 721364 E: admin@leys.herts.sch.uk W: www.leys.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs D Khangura

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## Child Exploitation and online protection

If you are worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating online let CEOP know. An experienced child protection advisor will be available to support you in making a report.



## Child line and NSPCC

A help and advice line for children who are worried to access support.

## UK Council for Internet Safety

Part of HM Government - [Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport](#), [Department for Education](#), and the [Home Office](#)



### Advice by age

Whatever your child's age; there is guidance to help you find out more about their digital lives. Receive practical advice on the steps you can take as a parent to keep them safe on social media, in online games and around the web.



Internet Watch Foundation

IWF work to stop the repeated victimisation of people abused in childhood and make the internet a safer place, by identifying & removing global online child sexual abuse imagery.

Empathy Inclusivity Respect Aspiration Determination Empowerment





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Although the recent cold weather has ended we feel it is still timely to remind you of the risks of children playing on frozen lakes and ponds following the recent tragedy in Solihull.

The Royal Life Saving Society (UK) have issued a flyer giving advice about what to do in an emergency.

They also have a colouring sheet, which you could share with your child to help discuss the dangers and raise their awareness.

Both of these documents are attached.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=1156b08149&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1752218385220013313&th=1851215673f28d01&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=1851214bc269dd922ac1>

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=1156b08149&attid=0.2&permmsgid=msg-f:1752218385220013313&th=1851215673f28d01&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=1851214bc26b56f9d222>



## Dark evening safety tips

- Children need to be visible, to motorists, cyclists and other pedestrians
- School uniforms are often dark in colour - think about adding high visibility strips to clothing, school bags or bike helmets etc.
- Peak time for pedestrian accidents are 8-9am and 3-4pm during 'school run' periods.

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## 'Hi Mum' Scam alert



**This scam has been reported as circulating through text messages and WhatsApp.**

The scam involves impersonation of friends/family members in order to gain access to your personal information.

Please read the article below for guidance on identifying scams and how to act on this if you have been targeted.

<https://ineqe.com/2022/09/12/scam-alert/>

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Feedback and any suggestions for topics to be covered in future editions welcomed - please contact school via your child's year group email address.



We would like to wish you all a very enjoyable festive holiday period and Happy New Year.

Keep Safe and see you in January.

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