SPRATTON HALL

The Dangers Vs The Benefits of the Internet

Internet is a wonderful resource which enriches the learning experience of children in every aspect. Whether it is looking at the Himalayas with Google Earth or experiencing the music of distant lands, the Internet places opportunities, experiences and information at our children's fingertips which would otherwise be impossible.

The dangers of the internet are all too clear. Some people see it as a means to bully, con, defraud or abuse others. We have all seen the stories on the news of how children can be particularly vulnerable to these dangers. This vulnerability comes from their lack of world experience, emotional maturity and wisdom. We as teachers and parents must make up for this in the education and supervision of our children. Such support is vastly more important than a mastery of the technology itself. This information will help you to use a range of tools on your computer to create a safer online environment for your child.

To lose out on the wonderful opportunities the internet can provide would be a travesty. Instead, we as teachers and parents have a responsibility to ensure that the internet becomes as safe an environment as possible by using the tools available to us and supervising, supporting and informing our children in their use of the internet. Before the internet, children were taught about "Stranger Danger" in schools to prevent them falling into such situations. We need to equip the children with the right tools to navigate the internet in much the same way that we use sensible precautions and safety equipment to off-set the dangers of air or road travel.

Broaching the topic the dangers the internet can hold can be difficult with children. Think You Know (for Parents) is a resource by Childnet International and offers clear advice for parents and carers as well as activities which you can complete with your children.