

## Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

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Nurtured We Flourish

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## Family Online Safety Presentation – Lenham Primary School

Dear Families,

With thanks to Mrs McCluskey at Lenham Primary School, I am writing to invite you all to a 'Digital and Online Awareness Briefing for Parents', held at Lenham Primary School on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 4:30pm.

The briefing will focus on the increasingly complex and potentially dangerous online world that our children are growing up in. Mr Gaygan, from The Towers School in Ashford, is a fantastic speaker who has been delivering these crucial presentations to parents for many years. It is sure to be eye-opening and informative.

In the last 2-3 years there has been a marked increase in the impact on children's emotional and mental health from the content that they are being exposed to online. This impact and exposure is real and as a result changing how we, as adults, need to support, advise and guide our children as they move from childhood into young adulthood.

The 'digital divide' between adults and children has always been there, but there is an ever-growing gulf that needs to be addressed regarding our children's decision making, what they are seeing, how this is shaping their beliefs and the increasingly blurred lines between their 'online' and 'real' worlds. We hope we will be able to provide you with some practical advice and guidance to take away.

Some of the topics to be discussed at the presentation will be:

- Influencers who are changing how children think, speak and act.
- Social media and its impact on the safeguarding, self-harm and self-esteem of children.
- Online dangers and concerns: Reality Vs Perception.
- How social media platforms can quickly become 'anti-social', toxic and all encompassing.
- The ease at which children can be exposed to harmful, explicit and potential exploitative material, irrespective of the controls you put in place.
- The inescapable rise of AI and how we safeguard children from it.

Some of the subject material that Mr Gaygan will be covering will be sensitive, **aimed at an adult audience and therefore** <u>not</u> <u>suited to children</u>. Due to this, this is an <u>adult only event</u>.

If you are interested in attending, please show an expression of interest by clicking on the link below and filling in your details. This information will be sent to Mrs McCluskey at Lenham Primary School and will allow her to plan and prepare for the evening.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelCdBKSk2gGbK7roR4jqAI0QdczclGvPZQhenqWR - IPN8RA/viewform?usp=dialog

Kind regards,

Jackie Chambers Headteacher















