



Hightown Road  
Ringwood  
Hampshire  
BH24 1NH  
Telephone: 01425 473554  
Facsimile: 01425 471215  
E-mail: [admin.office@ringwood-junior.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin.office@ringwood-junior.hants.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs S-A Evans  
BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

7th February 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

### **E-safety Week: Safeguarding our children in the digital age**

This week, as part of national E-safety awareness, our school is putting on a comprehensive range of activities to promote personal safety in using modern technology.

ICT (Information and Communications Technology), in all its forms, has transformed education and our children are born into this fast moving world which will continue to change, but be integral throughout their lives. ICT opens up so many educational and social opportunities, giving our children access, quite literally, to a world of information and experiences. Much of our focus currently is on using computers in school, but increasingly, our children are using laptops at home, games consoles, mobile phones and other hand-held devices, all of which can readily access the internet.

E-safety week focuses awareness on using the internet safely and responsibly. We believe that, if your child understands the risks and can make sensible and informed choices online, they can get the most from the internet. They can stay safe whilst doing so, particularly from those people who might seek to harm them.

For E-safety week, we have designed a series of lessons which will help children to manage risks. Topics include: using passwords, discussion forums, digital images, instant messaging, social networking and cyber bullying. The emphasis will be on being safe using these technologies and what to do in the event of concerns and problems.

There is a danger in school that our very high levels of safeguarding and protection, limits exposure to risk. We know our children's enthusiasm and confidence for using technology is high, but understanding of the risks, and how to respond, may be low. These sessions and our on-going curriculum are all about empowering our children to keep safe.

During the week, it would be really helpful if you would talk to your child/children about what they are learning about E-safety and how this might be applicable at home. We shall be holding a workshop on this theme, later in the year, to help parents understand the issues.

The acquisition of online safety skills are skills for life.

Yours sincerely

*Sally-Ann Evans*

Sally-Ann Evans  
Headteacher