

Atwood Primary School

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7 October 2008

'Know IT All - for Parents'

Dear Parents/Carers – open to all parents/carers (not just Y3 – Y6)

We have invited Childnet International (www.childnet.com) to present a parents' workshop on internet safety. This workshop will take place on 22nd October at 7.30pm. Each class from year 3-6 will be attending a short session during the day on general online safety. Childnet has worked with government, online industry, adults and children; they are experts in the field of online and mobile safety education. We highly recommend that you attend this seminar. Please return the reply slip below to the School office/your child's class teacher by 15th October **at the latest** – even if you are not attending (so that we know you have received this letter). Below is a message from Childnet International highlighting why it is important for you to "Know IT All". Please note this session is not for children.

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for taking the time to read through this letter. Childnet's mission statement is:

"To make the internet a great and safe place for children"

Promoting the positive

- Instant messenger
- Amazing facts and resources
- Online games
- Social Networking spaces
- Create your own website!

Responding to the negative

- Cyberbullying
- Adult content
- Invasive software
- Unwanted contact
- Copyright

Did you know that **one third** of young people who go online at least once a week report having received unwanted sexual (**31%**) or nasty comments (**33%**) via email, chat, instant message or text message? Only **7%** of parents think their child has received such comments.

You can do something to help your children use new technologies safely

During the presentation we will take you through how young people are **discovering, connecting** and **creating** in new and exciting ways using online and mobile technologies. We will open up the world of social networking spaces (MySpace, Piczo, Facebook, Bebo etc) and give you an insight into why young people use these spaces. We will highlight potential online risks including cyberbullying and unwanted contact. Parents will view "Let's Fight It Together", a film produced with the Department for Children, Schools and Families looking at the consequences of young people misusing technologies and will be given resources to take home in order to further explore the issues and help available online.

The 'Know IT All - for Parents' seminar will cover some simple practical steps you can take to help limit the risks as well as advice you can give your child. However, really helping your child will mean getting involved in their online activity, learning from your children about a whole new language and way of communicating and then playing your part in being a role model - in supporting them and guiding them in their use.

We look forward to seeing you.

Please return this section by 15th October whether or not you are attending

I will*/ will not* be attending the parents' internet safety seminar on 22nd October.

Number of people attending _____ Child's name: _____ Class: _____

Signed _____

*please delete as necessary