

WESTWOOD WITH IFORD SCHOOL



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Last night I hosted our annual esafety parent briefing. This was a chance to reflect on the potential risks of internet use for children, the importance of communication with children about the time they are spending online and to understand how to set up parental controls on home and mobile devices.

I do hope the evening proved useful for those of you who were able to attend and I believe constructive, engaging discussion was had between us, exploring the potential dangers of unsupervised, online access for children.

As this is such a crucial area of learning and a key part of our Home-School Learning Partnership, I have attached the presentation from last night for your information. I would urge you to spend a few minutes reading through in order to keep up to date with what you can do to support your children and help us to educate them in the safe use of the internet and online devices.

We also had the opportunity last night to discuss some new learning resources that I have created for you. If you browse the school website and go to the Community tab, you will find Home-School Learning Partnership and Computing in the Community - <http://www.westwoodwithiford.org/home-school-learning-partnership--computing-in-the-community.html>

On here I have added a number of web links, logins and downloads, including **Textease**, a brilliant word processor that we use in school, which is available as a free download along with documents to support you getting going with your child at home. If you fancy making a simple program, there is a link to **Scratch**, which is incredibly addictive and a lot of fun. Moreover, it is now a key part of the new National Curriculum! A few minutes to create a simple account and you are off. If you would like to see examples of what has already been created, look on either Lotus class or my Head's Blog to see how it can be done. On the Home-School Learning page, too, is a link to **Mathletics**, which your children can login to and practice their mathematical skills.

There are plenty of 'Getting Started' guides to assist you, but if you need further help, please do not hesitate to email me: ianrockey@westwoodwithiford.org and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the learning page.

I would love to know how you get on, so please ask your child to blog about your experiences, or even leave a comment yourself.

Have fun!
Ian Rockey