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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you and your families well. I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of significant concern that has recently come to our notice, one that requires your immediate awareness and action to ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of our children.

It has been brought to our attention that a considerable number of children within our school community, have been accessing content from the television series "Squid Game" through various digital platforms. This exposure is occurring through multiple channels, including direct viewing on Netflix, through YouTube Shorts and TikTok clips, and through popular gaming platforms such as Fortnite and Roblox, where related content has been integrated into the gaming experience.

This situation presents a serious safeguarding concern that requires our collective attention and immediate action. The content in question carries significant age restrictions for compelling reasons - Netflix rates "Squid Game" as suitable only for viewers aged 15 and above, while both Fortnite and Roblox, despite their popularity among younger users, contain content and interactions that may not be appropriate for children in the early years of their education. These age restrictions exist precisely because the content contains themes, imagery, and scenarios that are fundamentally unsuitable for young, developing minds and can cause significant psychological distress and confusion.

In accordance with the guidance outlined in "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (KCSiE), schools have a statutory duty to ensure that children are protected from harm, including harm that may arise from exposure to inappropriate digital content. This governmental guidance emphasises that safeguarding extends beyond the physical school environment to encompass all aspects of a child's experience, including their digital interactions and the content they consume online. The exposure of such young children to violent, disturbing, or age-inappropriate material constitutes a safeguarding issue that requires immediate attention from both school and home.

I would therefore urge you, as parents and carers, to engage in meaningful conversations with your children about staying safe online, ensuring that these discussions are age-appropriate yet comprehensive enough to establish clear boundaries and expectations. It is essential that you remain vigilant and mindful about the digital content to which your children have access, regularly reviewing and monitoring their online activities, gaming experiences, and viewing habits across all platforms and devices.

To support you in this crucial endeavour, I would like to remind you that our school regularly conducts parent workshops specifically designed to equip families with the knowledge, tools, and strategies necessary to navigate the complexities of digital safety and online protection. These workshops provide practical guidance on implementing effective parental controls, understanding age-appropriate content, and fostering open communication about digital citizenship with your children. We are committed to scheduling and delivering another comprehensive workshop during the Autumn term, and I will ensure that you receive detailed information about dates, times, and content as soon as these arrangements are finalised.

The protection of our children in both physical and digital environments remain our paramount concern, and this can only be achieved through the collaborative efforts of school, families, and the wider community working together with shared understanding and common purpose.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued partnership in safeguarding our children's wellbeing and development.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L A de Carteret Headteacher