E-Safety Update

Blue Whale Game

We need to alert you to information from The Safeguarding Sheffield Children Board (SSCB) who have circulated information about this game currently being reported in the media. Whist we do not want to be alarmist, we want to draw your attention to this potential threat and ask that parents and carers are aware that your child could be subject to receiving such challenges on social media after downloading the app.

This challenge is trending on Twitter and featuring on Instagram and Facebook.

In the game players are appointed a 'master' or 'teacher' who challenges them to self tattoo a blue whale on their body. The game hen escalates with increasing levels of self-harm encouraged.

Below are two links to articles about this:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/39718654/police-warn-parents-about-blue-whale-game-targeting-vulnerable-people

http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/777933/blue-whale-challenge-british-police-vulnerable-teenage-suicides-russia-britain

Access to the internet can be a great tool if used correctly and children should be able to embrace such technologies safely.

However, it can be a dangerous place if not monitored correctly and can leave young people very vulnerable. We are in regular contact with our local police officer who works with all the local schools. If you are concerned about any of these issues please do not hesitate to contact our safeguarding lead Dave Burnham.

More information relating to safeguarding can also be found at:

https://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org.uk/welcome/sheffield-safeguarding-children-board/Safeguarding-Children-Online/mothers-fathers-carers.html