

Primary School Assembly

Theme: Let's Create a Better Internet Together

Background Information:

This theme has been chosen again by the INSAFE network as it remains highly relevant in today's ever changing technologically-capable society. As sometimes young people can't see the difference between their lives online and their lives offline, this theme encourages young people to think about how to use the powers of the internet to do good online and offline. The theme for Safer Internet Day 2015 highlights the issues and concerns that young people have when they're online, but the theme primarily focuses on practical solutions and digital good deeds so that we can 'create a better internet together'.

Slide 1:

This assembly is for Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day in the UK is run by the UK Safer Internet Centre and this year's theme 'Let's create a better internet together' is very practical. During this assembly, we're going to be thinking about what you can do yourself to make the internet a better place!

Slide 2:

The internet is an amazing place which can help us in our real lives. You can use it to look up information for school projects or to chat with your friends or family on Skype, wherever they may live in the world. It's really important that we think about how our actions online affects our lives offline. Sometimes what we do online can affect us in a negative way, but today we're going to be focussing on how we can do things online to really create something positive!

Slide 3:

A lot of our lives these days are spent online. We use the internet in school to find things out for school and at home to talk to friends. It also makes your parents' life easier - your parents can pay bills, shop online and find out when there are any traffic delays. You can also be very creative online –there are so many opportunities! You can write your own blogs, you can create your own music and you can share your talents online. A survey recently said that people spend more time online now than they do sleeping!

- What are the 3 best things about the internet for you? Speak to the person beside you for 30 seconds.

Slide 4:

The internet can make our lives better in so many ways. But imagine if we turned it off!

- What would you do?
- How would you feel?

Turn to the person next to you and tell them what you think life would be like without the internet.

Slide 5:

It is true that we use the internet all the time for so many different reasons. It has made our lives easier and more convenient. But sometimes using the internet can make us feel worried or upset. Sometimes you might come across things you don't want to see. Sometimes you can receive mean comments online or you might come across things you don't want to see when you are trying to find your favourite game online.

Speak to the person next you and answer these 2 questions:

- What worries you about using the internet?
- Who would you tell if you had a problem while using the internet?

Slide 6:

Today it is important that we look at the problems that the internet can bring up, but we focus on how we can make them better. We can't make anything better if we don't know what the problem is. Today we are thinking of practical advice and good digital deeds that we can do to make the internet better.

Slide 7:

I'm going to read you out some stories and I want you to think of how to help these people do good digital deeds to create a better internet:

Sarah is in year 3 and loves going online. She lives in Brighton but her grandma lives far away. Sarah loves visiting her grandma but sometimes she worries about her grandma being alone in the house.

Sarah wants to talk to her grandma and show her new ballet shoes, but she can't show them to her over the phone. Calling on the phone also costs money. Sarah knows that Skype is free but her grandma doesn't understand this because she is scared to use her computer.

Can Sarah do a good digital deed to help her grandma? What could Sarah do to help her grandma feel less lonely? Hands up if you know the answer.

Slides 8 & 9:

They were some excellent answers. Now let's see if you know how to help a friend out online:

Tom is in year 5. His favourite game online is Minecraft and he loves chatting to his school friends on it and building bigger castles.

One day though he came into school and he noticed his best friend Harry was more quiet than usual. He asked him what the problem was and Harry told him that on Minecraft the night before someone had destroyed the castle he had just created and was saying mean things to him. Harry said that this wasn't the first time it had happened but he didn't know how to stop it.

Tom could see that his friend Harry was upset and he wanted to help him. What good digital deed could Tom do for Harry? Thumbs up or down if you think Tom should...

- Tell Harry not to be such a baby and to forget about it.
- Show Harry how to block people you don't know and report it if people are mean
- Tell Harry that he should tell an adult about the cyberbullying

Slides 10 & 11 (Optional extra scenario):

What do you think Chelsea should do in this situation?

Chelsea is in year 2. One day, she was trying to get to her favourite game but she made a mistake when she was typing in the website. Suddenly a bright pop up appeared on the screen. It was colourful and flashing and it said to click to win a great prize!

The pop up also said though that you had to give your email address and full name to get to the next stage. Chelsea was excited about the prize but she was worried about giving her email address and full name out online.

She had heard that sometimes things like this can give your computer viruses so that it slows the computer down. She wanted to win all that money but she wasn't really sure what to do. Thumbs up or down if you think Chelsea should...

- Type in her full name and click to try to win the money?
- Tell a grown up so they can delete the pop up?

Slide 12:

You can see that there are really great ways that we can help each other online and we've seen how we can all create a better internet together. Doing these practical digital good deeds can not only improve our lives and our friends/families' lives online but also offline. However, there are also very important rules that we need to remember to stay safe online.

S – Safe: remember not to give personal information away online. Only use nicknames as usernames, never your full name.

M – Meet: remember never to meet up with people that you meet online. They are strangers.

A – Accepting: Be careful when accepting files from strangers; they may contain viruses or things that may make us feel uncomfortable or worried.

R – Reliable: remember not everything that you read online is reliable or trustworthy. You should always check different websites to make sure that what you are reading is correct.

T – Tell: remember to always tell an adult if anything worries or upsets you online.

If you remind your friends and family about these SMART rules, that could be your good digital deed for the day. The internet would be a better place if everybody felt safe using it.

Slide 13:

For the rest of the day, I want you all to be thinking of good digital deeds that you can be doing online to make sure that the internet is a better place for everyone.

What will you do? Will you help your friends if they are being bullied online? If you know a lot about a service or app, will you help someone with their privacy settings? Will you say something nice to your friend online? Will you help someone get online to make sure they benefit from the internet as well?

Whatever you choose to do, anything positive that's created online can help make the internet a better place for everyone. It's up to us to make sure that the internet is a great and safe place for everyone.