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Keeping your child safe online – Ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm sure you'll agree that the current news and media coverage, regarding the ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine, is tough to watch and these certainly are troubling times.

Our children are certainly not stupid....they see things....they hear things....and in today's world, they watch things – often- from the device in their hand and as adults, we may not always realise.

In recent days, my own social media is becoming ever increasingly full of the most barbaric and upsetting video and audio content and last night it made me think, if I'm seeing this, what are our children seeing on Snap Chat, Tik Tok, Instagram and so on?

So, as a reminder and a plea, please take the time this evening or over the weekend to monitor and check what your child is up to on their device – even if it's your own personal device, on your own social media – don't presume you always think they're 100% safe and viewing appropriate content!

Keeping our children safe online is one of the biggest challenges we face as teachers and as parents and we therefore must use occasions like this to stop, reflect and remind ourselves and the children about what we should do.

Please remind your child that if they ever see anything online which upsets them, they know is inappropriate, scary or simply 'not nice', they should turn the device off and come to tell their trusted adult at home or in school, immediately so we can support them.

Other tips and advice can be found here - <https://normantonjunioracademy.org/our-academy/online-safety/>

In regards to talking to your child about the current situation in the Middle East, you may find these age appropriate websites and reference points useful, which we'll use in school accordingly:

- https://schools.firstnews.co.uk/free_resources/talking-israel-palestine
- BBC Newsround - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/67051424>

Like with anything, should you want to discuss this further, are concerned about your child's online safety or emotional wellbeing as a result of the news and world affairs, please contact one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads (Mr Welsh, Mr Berry, Mrs Black, Mrs Zammuto and Mrs Williams) and we'll be happy to support.

Kind regards,

Mr Welsh
Headteacher