

Safer Internet Day 7th February 2023

Safer Internet Day (SID) is organised by a network of Safer Internet Centres in Europe each February to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology, especially among children and young people. Typically celebrated on the second day of the second week of the second month, each year on Safer Internet Day millions of people unite to inspire positive changes online, to raise awareness of online safety issues, and participate in events and activities right across the globe.

As always, Safer Internet Day aims to create both a safer and a better internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. The campaign aims to reach out to children and young people, parents and carers, teachers, educators and social workers, as well as industry, decision makers and politicians, to encourage everyone to play their part in creating a better internet. By celebrating the positive power of the internet, the Safer Internet Day slogan of “Together for a better internet” encourages everyone to join the movement, to participate, and to make the most of the internet’s potential to bring people together.

This year’s theme was ‘Making space for conversations about life online.’

The message behind this theme was for children to realise that they should be talking about being online with their parents and grandparents and that children should be able to explain what they are doing online and what games they are playing. Creating this open dialogue should help to keep what children are doing online safe.

Here at Bolney CEP, our Safer Internet Day started with an assembly and then each class was set a challenge to complete over the course of the day. These challenges were aimed at helping children to understand why it is so important to be open about what they are doing online and how to find help if they are ever worried about what they have seen or done online.

Willow and Beech classes watched a short video and shared their thoughts and ideas about how they could share their worries with an adult. Holly Class created alphabet posters to identify the games that children are playing online and Silver Birch made short videos to share their views and experiences of being online.

Online safety is an ongoing concern and Safer Internet Day is just one of regular occasions where the subject is at the fore of our minds in school. For any parents wanting guidance on supporting their child online, there are many useful resources on the following websites:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>