In Year 2 Computing lessons this week and last week, the children have completed an e-safety questionnaire about their usage of the internet. The findings have shown that most of the children use the internet regularly at home, particularly to download and play games.

We have found that some of the Year 2 children are using social media sites such as Facebook, and some said they have their own accounts. It is worth noting that it is a legal requirement under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act 1998 (COPPA) that a user must be at least 13 years old to sign up for a website that collects personal information. The age restrictions for social media can be found below.

Age Restrictions On Social Media

13	14	16	17	18	18
Twitter Facebook Instagram Pinterest Google+ Tumblr Reddit Snapchat	LinkedIn	WhatsApp	Vine Tinder	Path	(13 with parents consent) YouTube Keek Foursquare WeChat Kik Flickr

As children have to be 13 to use these sites, it means that if they are under 13 and have an account, they have had to lie about their age on their profile. Therefore, if a 7 year old child signed up for a Facebook account claiming to be 13, they will be able to see inappropriate content such as adverts for gambling, alcohol, slimming aids and overtly sexual dating services by the time they are 12 years old in real life.

As a class, we have discussed the benefits of the internet but also its drawbacks, including fraud and speaking to people online who may not be who they say they are. We discussed how we can stay safe online and discussed who we can speak to if anything ever happens online. For extra information about online safety, please see our e-safety page on our website at: http://www.western.n-yorks.sch.uk/general-information/e-safety/.