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# Scoil Lios na Groí

## Lisnagry National School

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Dear Parents,

As previously mentioned, our school took part in Safer Internet Day last month and throughout the year we address a range of topics and internet safety issues and concerns. The Internet is becoming a bigger part of our children's lives and it is important that we get involved in what they are doing online. As the majority of time that children spend on the internet is at home it is important that you the parents and guardians understand the potential dangers and what can be done to avoid them. This means not just talking to our children about what they do online but also listening. It is advised that we talk openly and regularly about our concerns and agree boundaries around internet use in our homes.

While the internet undoubtedly presents fantastic opportunities for children, it is equally clear that there are valid concerns about children spending too much time online, accessing inappropriate content, and communicating with people who they do not know.

On **Tuesday 5th April**, we will be welcoming **Zeeko Ireland** to the school to teach the pupils in 4th to 6th class about Internet Safety. **That evening at 7pm we invite ALL parents to attend a talk on Internet Safety.** These pupil and parent internet safety seminars from Zeeko have proved to be very informative and beneficial. The parent seminar can be accessed via the below link

<https://bit.ly/3KjHsoY>

This is not a topic that is only relevant to teenagers and older children. Young children spend time online using mobile phones, games, social media and online streaming. It is essential that your child is safe while doing so. We hope to teach the children good habits while they are young as well as inform parents about the real online dangers for young children and the reality of what they can be exposed to online. While it may be assumed that inappropriate content including that of a sexual and violent nature is a topic that features only for teenagers rather than primary school children, a number of studies conducted in the past few years suggest otherwise. Children are more exposed than ever to this content and at a younger age than before.

As parents, our natural desire is to keep our children safe. The best online safety strategy, regardless of age is to talk with your child and to engage with them about what they are doing and who they are doing it with. Zeeko have great resources and tips to help. **We strongly encourage all parents in our school community to attend this Internet Safety talk.**

Regards,

MICHAEL FEENEY

Principal

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