



Aim High....Fly High!

17th November 2016

Dear Parents/Carer

As part of the government's plans for developing the use of technology in education, every school is being asked to provide pupils with an 'online learning space'. This involves pupils having access to an individual, school-based e-mail account and an area online where they can upload and download work to be accessed at home and school. These are called learning platforms.

The Cambridgeshire ICT Service has developed 'STARZ', a website designed to do just that (and a little bit more!). Through STARZ, pupils will have access to useful homework websites, projects that they can take part in with their class, copyright free pictures and music and galleries where they can share work with Duxford pupils and teachers. Pupils will even be able to e-mail work to school if they want to!

In response, and to relaunch these initiatives, we have arranged for our pupils to access their own space and e-mail account through the use of STARZ. We are very excited about the opportunity for the pupils to access work at home and know it will have a very positive impact on children's learning. The accounts are stored within the county's secure environment with a high level safety filtering system. The children's use of Starz is within a closed community at school level and we will be encouraging the use of Starz for safe e-mailing and for the storage of work which can be accessed by home and by school.

Pupils will be reminded of the need to keep their information and personal details private and will be taught to use their accounts safely and sensibly. Pupils will only be able to send and receive e-mails to/from other Duxford users and all e-mails will automatically be sent to a teacher account for monitoring. As these accounts are designed to also be accessible from home, pupils will be given individual usernames and passwords which will be shared with you so you can explore the site with your child and monitor any activity at home. If there is anything unsuitable please inform school immediately through the office not through the child's account. These accounts are purely for your child to use therefore a sibling must not know their brother or sister's passwords or use STARZ projects. There must be NO uploading of photographs to their accounts.

We therefore expect that:

- Parents and children understand that any inappropriate use of the child's account(e.g. the sending of inappropriate e-mails from one child to another) may result in the account being de-activated.
- Children agree to use their accounts sensibly and according to the school's Acceptable Use Agreement.

We would like to recommend that parents still monitor the children's use of the internet at home as other sites and chatrooms do not provide the secure level of safety that we can be sure of in school.

Should you wish to discuss any issues please contact me via the school office.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Gould
Headteacher



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