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Dear Parents

Posterous Blogs

If you are a parent of a child in year 4 or 5, it would be extremely hard not to have noticed the two class blogs that have become such a feature during this term. As you will be aware, all content on these blogs is moderated either by the class teacher or me: nothing goes live on the blog before we have read it and approved it. These blogs are under the ownership and control of the school.

I'm aware that a number of children have started their own blogs using Posterous, which are not under the control of the school with the protection that our moderation and control affords.

There is one issue to which I would draw parents' attention.

Posterous, like almost every other site for social network or blogging, has terms and conditions which limit owners of blogs to 13 years and over. Having taken advice, I don't think that Posterous offers any inherent dangers, but I would be reluctant to flout such regulations with children, especially as they look to us as role models of integrity. I am keen for children to continue to blog safely and to as wide an audience as possible. Therefore, I would offer the following solution.

If a child wants to start their own blog, then arrange to set it up in your name and using your email account as the primary account for the blog. In this way the blog is not your child's but yours. You can then add your child as a contributor to the blog, with the ability to moderate posts and approve comments. It has the added bonus of allowing you to see everything that happens on the blog and to be on hand to help with any issues that arise.

This will also be of benefit when your child decides to open a Facebook account. They will be used to you having free access to their account and being open and accountable with you.

If you are not sure how to set up a Posterous blog, simple advice from an educational expert and the man who set up the school blogs can be found here -

<http://ictvideohelp.posterous.com/posterous-setting-up-a-class-blog>

As ever, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will leave a copy of this letter on the school website.

Yours faithfully

Bruce Waelend