

Glazebury CE Primary School & Nursery

Warrington Road, Glazebury, Warrington, Cheshire. WA3 5LZ



Head Teacher: Mrs K Mowbray BA Hons M.Ed

Telephone: 01925 949404

e-mail:glazeburyprimary@ldst.org.uk

www.glazebury.eschools.co.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Safeguarding Notice: Spy Dog, Spy Pups and Spy Cat Books

I am writing to inform you of a recent safeguarding alert concerning a series of children's books: *Spy Dog, Spy Pups,* and *Spy Cat,* published by Puffin Books. It has come to light that a URL printed at the back of some editions—originally intended to provide character information—has since become corrupted and now links to inappropriate online content. While Puffin Books are actively working with distributors and library services to address the issue, we want to ensure our school community is aware and supported.

The risk is primarily for children accessing these books via e-readers or other internet-enabled devices, where clicking the link is possible. In printed versions, a child would need to manually type the URL into a browser. **Importantly, the books themselves remain age-appropriate and enjoyable. The issue lies solely with the outdated web link.**

In school we have checked our library for any copies of the affected titles. Any books found will be temporarily removed and the URL will be obscured or removed. Once the link is no longer visible, books will be returned to circulation. We are also using this opportunity to reinforce safe internet practices with pupils.

Please can I ask that as parents that you remove any *Spy Dog, Spy Cat*, or *Spy Pups* books from your child's bookshelf or e-reader **temporarily**. Please check for and obscure or remove any printed or digital links to the corrupted website. Speak with your child about the importance of not visiting unknown or suspicious websites, and monitor their online activity closely. Encourage open conversations about internet safety and follow any updates from Puffin Books regarding this issue.

Helpful resources for parents:

To support you in talking to your child about online safety, we recommend the following websites:

- <u>ParentSafe by LGfL</u>
- NSPCC Online Safety
- <u>Safer Internet Centre Parents & Carers</u>
- Internet Matters eSafety Resources

We appreciate your support in helping keep children safe both in school and at home. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards

Mrs K Mowbray
Head Teacher

