

What also happened!





Welcomes YOU to their world of adventures!



This story is written and produced by the Dog, Duck and Cat Trust.

What also happened!

Are you sitting comfortably? Then let's begin...



In a town, not too far from here, lived a Dog, a Duck and a Cat. They were the best of friends and always looked out for each other, because that is what good friends do!





Our story today is very different, but I'm sorry to say this is not a happy story. Miss Pony, the Headmistress of Farmyard Lane Primary, had called all the young animals into a special assembly.





'Good morning everyone' said Miss Pony, 'I need to talk to you all about something very important'.

All the young animals could see that the Headmistress looked very serious; what on earth could have happened?

'Now everyone' said Miss Pony, 'what I am about to tell you is very serious. There is no need for you to worry, but I want you all to know this information because I want to make sure, as best as possible, that this doesn't happen to YOU!'

She continued.





Thankfully Duck had some help from his friends and his Mom and we were able to stop Zebra speaking to him and filling his head full of nonsense and disinformation.

But, what we didn't know was that Zebra was also talking to Bigger Weasel at the same time. Sadly, he didn't get help from his friends or family, so Zebra managed to manipulate him into believing that all chickens were stupid, bad and are to blame for all sorts of things, everything from the weather to how much money Bigger Weasel got for his pocket money!

This is disinformation, plain and simple, but Bigger Weasel believed all of it.'







That was because Zebra had been so convincing when he had been speaking to him online. But that wasn't the end of Zebras' nastiness. As well as Zebra disliking all Chickens, he also disliked ALL women and girls as well.

Whilst he was manipulating Bigger Weasel into hating Chickens, he also managed to alter his thinking even more.

Bigger Weasel now believed that all girls and women were stupid, and boys and men were superior to them, which again is total disinformation and completely untrue.'











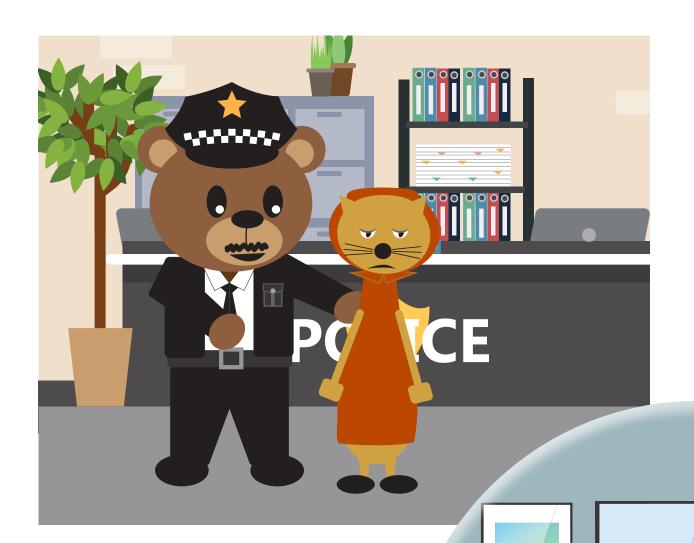




Miss Pony continued.

'Now, as we all know, in our world we are all equal. Boys and girls, men and women, Ponies, Chickens, Weasels, and anyone else! But the result of all of Zebra's lying and manipulating is that Bigger Weasel now hates all Chickens, but especially Chicken at this school, because she is also a girl.'





'None of us knew this until yesterday, and I'm very sad to say that yesterday Bigger Weasel did something very bad to Chicken. I will not be telling you the details, but what I will say is that Bigger Weasel is in very serious trouble with the police and will not be returning to this school.

I'm happy to say Chicken is ok. She is very shaken and her Mom is taking care of her, but we are all very hopeful she will make a full recovery.' The young animals were all shocked; they couldn't believe that someone they knew had been an actual victim of an online groomer. They knew Zebra had targeted Duck, but Duck had got help before anything really bad had happened.

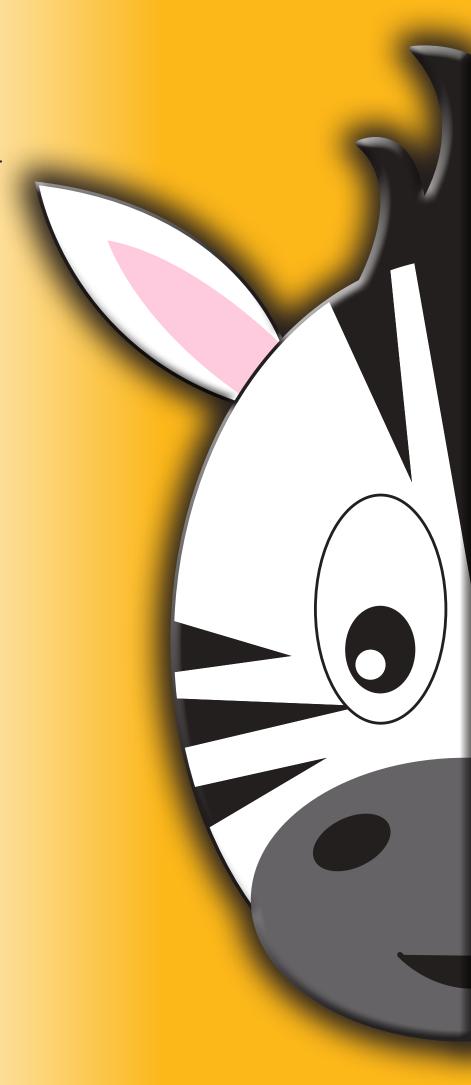


Miss Pony continued.

The next thing I want to tell you is quite shocking.

Zebra isn't actually a young Zebra, or young at all, but he is actually an adult Wolf!

All the young animals were stunned, they couldn't believe that someone could be so awful that they would pretend to be someone they weren't just to manipulate someone else.





'Now I don't want any of you to worry', said Miss Pony.

Wolf is now being spoken to by the police and he will not be going online for a long time.

But the reason I am telling you this is; we want to make sure you all know that ANYONE can be targeted by an online groomer and the disinformation they spread.'



'If anyone is talking to you when you are online, you need to make sure an adult you know you can trust knows about it. They can make sure they are who they say they are and ideally, they will help you to check out who you are speaking to and make sure they are decent and honest.

I need you all to remember this, as this is how you can help to keep yourself safe online.'

So remember:



- You can't believe everything that you read online check it out as it could be fake and disinformation.
- You can't trust everyone you meet online - get an adult to check them out, are they safe and a decent person; definitely don't keep them as a secret!
- Don't fall for misinformation and disinformation, remember your digital detective skills you all learned.







'You will all now go back to your class, but if you ever have any questions about being online then always ask an adult you know will listen to you', said Miss Pony.

All the young animals returned to class. They all hoped Chicken would be ok and they agreed to make her a bright and colourful card to wish her well.

They were also looking forward to doing some work to help them stay safe online, it just made good sense they all thought...



There's lots more...

Have a look at all our stories and activities, there's lots for you to enjoy!

Here are some of the other characters you will get to meet!

