Copyright & the Internet

Copyright law applies to materials found on the internet to the same extent it applies to materials in traditional formats.
© Symbol

Since 1989, no symbol or notice of ownership is required. So, when you find material on the internet that you’d like to use and there is no indication of copyright ownership, the only way to be safe is to assume it is covered and that you need to get permission or justify use somehow.
E-mail, #1 (Of 4)

Caveat: When sending or receiving e-mail at work, be careful to adhere to institutional policy.
Is it legal for your employer to look at your email?

Probably.

Is your employer doing that?

Maybe.

Must your employer tell you first?

A general statement will do.
E-mail, #3

Remember:

1. Author holds copyright in e-mail;
2. Copyright notice NOT required;
3. Printing out a copy of e-mail you receive is okay;
4. Forwarding of e-mail w/o permission is NOT okay;
5. Posting others’ e-mails to listservs, etc., NOT okay;
6. Forward of e-mail found on listservs is okay (implied license);
7. You can post a notice about use of your email, if you feel you need to.
A Word to the Wise

Your emails on a work computer, depending on where you work, may be subject to freedom of information rules and/or record retention schedules.

Also, what you say in an email may be discoverable in a court case.

[This advice also applies to personal web pages and interactions on blogs as well.]
Web Pages, #1 (Of 2)

Text or Images

Use some or all of these methods--

1. Create your own;
2. Use licensed art;
3. Use public domain images;
4. Obtain permission (in writing);
5. Justify as fair use.
Links:

Courts, so far, have found that a link that takes a user to a site is fine (Notice or permission is not necessary);

BUT bringing material from linked site to your own site is not permitted.