Dear Parents and Carers,

As 'Computing' continues to grow to be a central part of our lives, including young people, we as a school are keen to share key facts and helpful tips. We value our partnership with parents and carers to safeguard and support our children to stay safe online. Please explore this newsletter and do not hesitate to ask any questions for further information.

Kind regards,

MrsThomerson

Get to know Age Ratings

Age ratings are in place to help protect your child, so here is a reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing. **Did you know that WhatsApp has an age rating of 16?**

Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online, using social media or downloading other apps – check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI include further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence, if accessing the app/game etc. It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls.

Further information Parent Zone have published this article about why age ratings matter:

https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings

How to be safe and what you can do

• Speak to your child/ren about being aware of being tricked into sharing images of themselves, and the dangers of talking to strangers online.

• Speak to your children about how, once you share an image or anything else online, you lose control of it and where it goes.

• Remind your children that they will never be in trouble for talking to a trusted adult about anything that they are unsure of or makes them feel uncomfortable.

• Keep digital devices, particularly those with cameras, in communal areas. Almost every case of a self-produced image that becomes a safeguarding concern is produced in a child's bedroom or bathroom. The following website is a simple no-nonsense guide for parents from the NSPCC and O2 to the social media, apps and games that children use.

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/

Phase 2 will be holding an Online Safety session for parents soon with PCSO Jasmine Baker, more information will follow.

SETTING PARENTAL CONTROLS

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published a guide for parents on using parental controls to keep your child safe. Parental controls are designed to help protect children from inappropriate content online, such as pornography, age restricted apps, or other adult content. These controls can be used in various ways, for example to help ensure that children access only age-appropriate content, to set usage times, to monitor activity, or to help prevent in-app purchases.

Childnet has also published information and key advice on parental controls for parents and carers.

Free practical guides from Internet Matters will show you how to set up parental controls on various platforms and provide help with many filtering options, including how to set time and age limits, block certain content, lock settings with a password or PIN, and activate restricted modes where available.

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

It's Christmas Time!

A Parent's Guide to Social Media

A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures

A Parent's Guide to Gaming

A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming

scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website

A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming

A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers

A Parent's Guide to Fake News

A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational   Email: info@skipsed.com   Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with Home Office, West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit, west midlands police and crime commissioner

Skips   www.skipssafetynet.org

Fake Profiles and Cyberbullying

Setting up a profile impersonating somebody else with the intention of being unkind to others/to cause embarrassment to the individual is a form of cyberbullying. If your child has set up a fake profile, talk to them about how this is a form of bullying and therefore not acceptable. It is important that we talk to our children about the issue of cyberbullying and let them know that if they are ever a victim of it then it is not their fault, and they should tell you (or a trusted adult) straightaway. Talk to your child about reporting and blocking tools on social media or online games and show them how to use them to report any form of bullying. You can read more about cyberbullying here:

- https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abusesafety/types-bullying/bullyingcyberbullying /

- https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-ofabuse/bullying-andcyberbullying/

Additionally, *Report Harmful Content* have listed how you can report impersonation accounts on the different social media networks here:
https://reportharmfulcontent.com/advice/impersonation/

Key Dates

- Safer Internet Day – Week beginning February 5th
- Online Safety Workshop with PCSO Jasmine Baker **Year 5 and 6 children Thursday 18th January**
- Online Safety Workshop with PCSO Jasmine Baker **Year 3 and 4 children Thursday 11th January**