Safeguarding Newsletter – Online Safety

LONGFORD
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL

EMBARK Federation

UK Safer Internet Centre

The UK Safer Internet Centre's mission is to make the internet a better place for children and young people. This website health a wealth of useful information, including Online Issues, Guides and Resources, Training and Events, Blogs and Research. Visit https://saferinternet.org.uk/ to find out more.

In the Primary Zone, two fantastic resources are ebooks about Smartie the Penguin for younger children, accessed here: https://www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin/ and Kara, Winston and the Smart Crew' for upper Primary students, accessed here: https://www.childnet.com/resources/the-adventures-of-kara-winston-and-the-smart-crew/
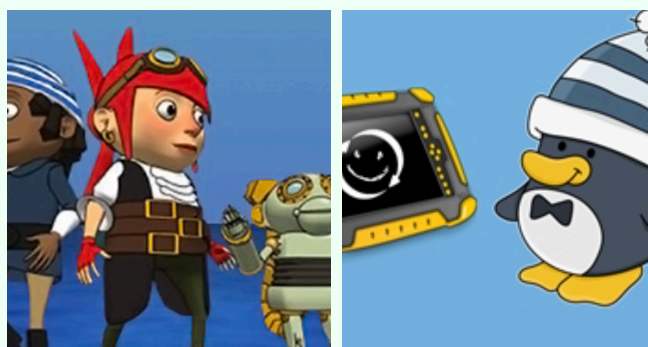
WhatsApp*(It it possible that children in KS2 will have, or have access to, WhatsApp)*

WhatsApp

Please note, that you must be at least 16 years of age to use WhatsApp.

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls.

What are the risks?
Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes - encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe then into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

Advice for Parents & Carers
Create a safe profile by setting your profile setting to restrict who can see their photo and status. Choose 'My Contacts' or 'nobody'.
Explain about Blocking. If your child receives spam or offensive messages, call or files from a contact, they should block them using the 'settings' in the chat. Young people should not engage in these chats but report it as a scam.

Try Using 'SafeSearch' - Safe Search Kids is a custom search engine enhanced by Google to allow everyone to search the internet more safely. We use Google's SafeSearch features with additional filtering added to block potentially harmful material at home and in schools. This search filtering is available on computers, laptops, tablets and phones. You can read more here:

https://www.safesearchkids.com/google-kids/#.Yx4kBXbMLIV

Talking to Younger Children
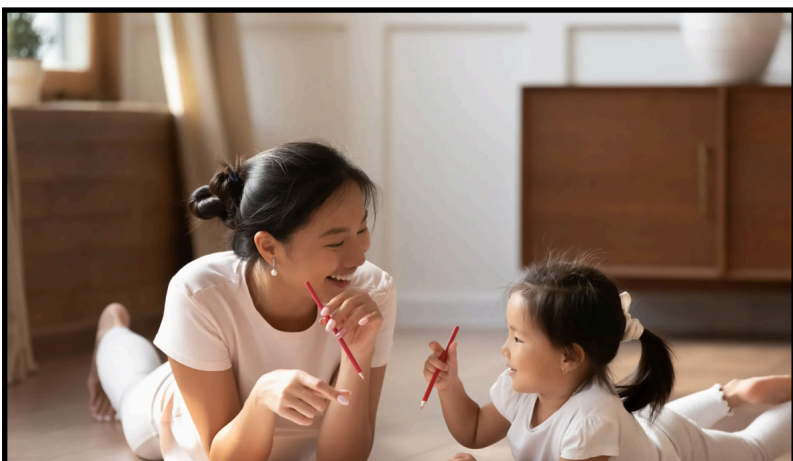
According to the latest research from Ofcom, nearly half of all 3-4 year olds have their own tablet (Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022) so it is never too early to start chatting to our children about how to stay safe online. But how can we do this?

Here are some of our suggestions:

Use books to spark conversations

Childnet have created a collection of five '**Digiduck**' stories to help you educate your child (aimed at aged 3–7) about online safety. The stories are available here: https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/

In addition, **Childnet** have created a learning-to-read book for children aged 4 and above titled '**On the internet.**' The book also includes puzzles to encourage conversations. The book can be downloaded here: https://www.childnet.com/resources/a-learning-to-read-book/

Watch Jessie & Friends together

ThinkuKnow have created three different animations for three age groups between 4 – 7 years. **ThinkuKnow** also provide some useful guidance and advice on what else you can do to keep your child safer online, such as setting up appropriate parental controls. You can find out more here: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends/
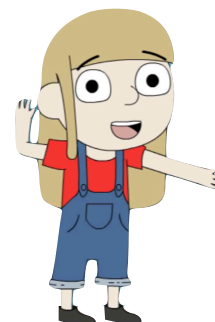
Is your child under 5?

This article is specifically aimed at those with children under the age of 5 and discusses the benefits of being online as well as how to create a safer online environment. You can read the article here: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-fivesafe-online/

Screen Time - quality over quantity

Research has found that there is no perfect amount of screen time. The right amount of screen time will be different for everyone, and will depend on your family's lifestyle. Instead, it is useful to think about screen time in terms of quality over quantity. Children might be enjoying a wide range of activities on their devices, like homework, online games, or socialising with friends. These positive uses of technology can really support young people's wellbeing. However, screen time should not replace sleeping, eating, exercise, or get in the way of hobbies.