

Bratton Primary School

Parent Online Safety Newsletter



What's happening in the world of Online Safety?

Autumn 2021

Welcome to our special Online Safety Newsletter!

As we all continue to live and learn in different ways, sometimes relying more heavily on online learning, we want to reinforce the positive message of building safe behaviours, whether at home or in school. Please visit our Online Safety page on our website for more support. <https://www.bratton.wilts.sch.uk/online-safety-advice/>

In This Issue:

Online safety activities you can do from home

In school, we have regular Online Safety lessons, to help your children develop resilience and understand their own role in staying safe and healthy when they are online.

Whilst children are spending more time at home and possibly more time using their devices, these great ideas from Childnet can help you teach your child about Online Safety from home. They also have resources to use with different age groups.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/online-safety-activities-you-can-do-from-home>



(Photo from: <https://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/family>)

The NSPCC also have advice for how to have a conversation with your children about Online Safety at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Google and Parentzone remote support

Google and Parent Zone are now offering remote Online Safety support for schools while social distancing is in place.

Included are:

Sessions for parents which will be livestreamed on YouTube

Live online assemblies which schools can register for

Find out more and register your interest at:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/legendshome>



DfE Guidance for Online Safety During School Closures

The DfE have released updated guidance to support parents and carers with helping keep children safe from different risks online and where to go to receive support and advice during the Coronavirus crisis. Find it at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>



Online Safety at Home Resources

The education team at Thinkuknow have launched new #OnlineSafetyAtHome resources to support schools and families during Covid-19 closures. The packs, which are released every fortnight, include 15 minute activities parents and carers can do with their child to support their online safety at home and are all for all age groups.

Thinkuknow have also published social media support resources to help schools share Online Safety resources with their families.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/our-views/onlinesafetyathome-resources>

Alexa or Echo?



Do you have a home assistant such as Alexa or Echo in your home? Are you considering purchasing one?

This article helps you think about what is possible, what can go wrong and the decisions you need to make about safe use in the home.

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/answers-to-parents-top-questions-about-smart-speakers>

It includes information about how young children can make use of them, hidden costs in using them and privacy settings. Use the list of things that can go wrong to help your family agree how your home assistant can be enjoyed safely.

New resources published for primary

Childnet have published [six new videos](#) which could be used as part of online learning for **6 - 9 year olds**. The videos are based on the SMART rules and can be watched and talked about within families. Some follow up activities are suggested.



CommonSenseMedia

Generally young children need supervising when they are using websites and apps that connect across the internet. However, there are some sites that are relatively safe and do not have direct interactions.



CBeebies has lots of activities and games suitable for young children up to the age of 6.

YouTube have launched their Kids app on Android and Apple. It includes famous children's brands like Morph, Teletubbies, Wallace & Gromit and The Magic Roundabout. The app is free to download but does contain family friendly adverts.

For further ideas try the CommonSenseMedia website which rates and describes app – search for kids apps.

www.common sense media.org

New phone?



Have you just given your older child a new mobile phone? use this advice taken from the UK Safer Internet site @ <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-andresources/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-to-technology/smartphones/how-to-stay-safe>

Talk with your child about safe and responsible smartphone use and agree a set of family rules. Perhaps you could agree rules with your child about not meeting up with people they have only met online, how much they are allowed to spend on apps, what websites it's okay and not okay to visit, and whether their phone should be switched off at night. See the Family Agreement for more ideas. Remember that smartphones connect to the internet, so the same advice and rules for keeping safe online apply.

Their family Agreement can be found here: www.digizen.org/digicentral/family-agreement.aspx

Posting videos on YouTube and other platforms



In recent times, we have become aware of more children, especially younger children posting videos of themselves on YouTube. Many children watch YouTube celebrities such as Zoella, Stampy, DanTDM or Joe Sugg. With the technology available now on mobile phones, it is very easy to create a video and many children and young people will then want to share that video in the same way as the celebrities they follow.

So what are the issues with young people sharing these types of videos? Well, they will depend to a certain extent on the age of the child and the content of the video but the following issues might need to be considered if your child is asking to put videos of themselves up online.

1. Once the video is in a public forum like YouTube, it is not possible to guarantee being able to remove every copy of it if any of the people in the video are later embarrassed, upset or angry about its content.
2. Does the video really need to be in a public forum? If there are some friends or family who would like to view it, can the forum be made private to those people – this can be done on YouTube and some other forums.
3. How will your child cope if some viewers make negative comments? Does the platform allow the comments to be hidden?
4. Does the video, the username or biographic information contain anything that could put the child at risk? We have seen videos clearly showing the front of a child's house or identifiable landmarks, videos taken in school uniform or videos showing children's bedrooms.
5. Does the video contain any inappropriate content, for example rude comments, swearing, criticisms of their school? Your child's friends may watch the video and show their parents – is there anything that anyone might take offence to? Does it breach any of the sites' terms and conditions?
6. Are your child's expectations realistic? Some children can get very disappointed if they do not receive a lot of likes/subscriptions etc.

Remember that YouTube and many other platforms have a minimum age limit of 13 and accounts can be deleted if they are thought to belong to someone younger.

Parenting in the digital age from ParentZone

The ParentZone, which produces the Digital Parenting magazine, have launched an online training product for parents containing 3 modules:

- Module 1: Understanding online risk.
- Module 2: Using tools and settings to keep your child safer online.
- Module 3: Effective digital parenting.

This is free to parents if their child's school is a Parent Zone Digital Schools member or £6.99 +VAT for other parents.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/training/online-trainingparents>

Grand Theft Auto



Grand Theft Auto V is the fifth in a series of games available on games consoles and PC platforms. It is a game for adult audiences as its main theme is to play a criminal and commit various types of offences. It has been rated 18 (for adults only) by the PEGI organisation for "Extreme violence - Multiple, motiveless killing - Violence towards defenceless people - Strong language".

Parents need to be aware that gang violence, nudity, extremely coarse language, and drug and alcohol abuse are present in the game. In addition, women are frequently depicted as sexual objects.

Unfortunately, we are seeing quite a number of primary age children being exposed to this game, sometimes as players and sometimes as observers, and three have been instances where children have re-enacted scenes or brought in the languages and conversations they are hearing from the game which can be distressing for other children. A further issue is that children may be playing this game with unknown people online and given the nature of the game many of those will be adults so there are issues around strangers and the type of language they may be experiencing.

Our recommendation to parents and carers would be to look at the guidance for this game before allowing children and young people to view or play it. Also, if your child is going to someone else's house, check that they will not be exposed to it by having a chat with the parents/carers before they go. For further information on games ratings, see <http://www.pegi.info/en/index/id/952>

For a more detailed game review from Common Sense Media see

<https://www.common sense media.org/gamereviews/grand-theft-auto-v>

Snapchat - terminology



Online Snapchat is a photo and video messaging app that is becoming increasingly popular with primary aged school children.

It is unique in that all photos and videos usually only last a brief amount of time (up to 10 seconds) before they disappear forever. As with any site/app there is a range of terminology to become versed in as you can see below:

Snapchatters: Snapchatters are Snapchat users.

Snap: A snap is a photo or video taken with Snapchat. You can send a snap to a Snapchatter (or multiple snaps to multiple snapchatters), but it can only be viewed by the recipient for a limited amount of time (1 to 10 seconds).

Snapback: A Snapback is a reply to your Snap.

Story: A story is a snap you can mass-send to friends. Recipients can view it an unlimited amount of times in 24 hours. You can also send multiple snaps to your story in one day. They'll be compiled to create one story.

Scores: Your Score is the total number of Snaps you have sent and received. It appears next to your name in friends' contact lists and vice versa.

Chat: Chat is a feature that lets you privately message with friends on Snapchat.

Here: Here is a sub-feature within Chat. It lets you broadcast live video and audio to friends while chatting. If your child is using this app then it is wise to understand how it works and how your child is using it. A 'snap' may only last 10 seconds but it takes less than a second to take a screenshot of it. Snapchat does inform a user when a recipient has taken a screenshot but this is one of the many privacy issues we should talk to our children about when they're communicating online. For more information about Snapchat look here: <http://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/snapchat/>

You Now

There has been a recent spate of children across the country, particularly girls being incited to expose themselves over the web cam on younow.com to gain 'bars' & popularity. The participants believe they have control of videos, in that they can decide IF and for how long, videos are available on the website. However, there are any number of software packages which can record, edit and save 'what is happening on the screen' including video feeds. A recent on-going case has shown that paedophiles are increasingly collecting sharing and swapping 'screen recordings'. Indecent 'younow' videos have featured particularly heavily. There is an 'online currency' which is worthless in the real world but enables users to 'buy' virtual gifts and possessing more 'bars' lifts the broadcaster in the list making them easier to find, effectively making the more popular. Further information about this and other concerns is available from: <http://parentinfo.org/article/a-parents-guide-to-younow> www.parentinfo.org



Gaming Device Settings



Gaming devices provide a variety of interesting activities and ways for young people to engage with their friends and families. However, it is important to be aware of what these devices can do and how you can talk with your child to help them to use this technology in safe and positive way. All modern gaming devices offer parental controls to help you manage how your child uses their device, but these do need to be set up in order for them to be operational.

This link will help you adjust the settings for the most common gaming machines.

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology/gamingdevices>

Playing games online – useful information

The NSPCC have put together a useful guide to gaming online – when, where and how should children be playing? How do you choose a game for your child? How can you set up parental controls? <https://goo.gl/RCp1zs> You could also visit the Family Gamer YouTube channel, where there are lots of two-minute videos for parents about popular games <https://goo.gl/R1T1QW>

Parent Information



Parent Info provides a summary of how to ensure privacy settings are in place for a variety of social media apps. This is also a useful reminder of the age expectations. <http://parentinfo.org/article/setting-safety-and-privacy-settings-for-social-mediaapps>

The NSPCC have just published A Parent's Guide to Being Shareaware which could be particularly useful to share for parents. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/share-aware.pdf>

ThinkYouKnow Campaign

CEOP have launched a new public awareness campaign to get parents and carers thinking and talking about the importance of discussing sex, relationships and the internet with their children. Their first new resource is a retelling of Romeo and Juliet showing what the story could look like should they have social media available to them- "The world changes. Children don't!" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNSXxf-luKM>

Family travel and electronic devices

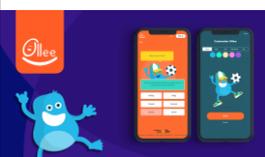


There are many apps that can entertain younger children during long stays in airport lounges or car journeys and these can be seen at the CommonSense Media site here: www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/best-road-trip-apps

With older children why not use Google Earth or Waze to help plan the journey or to use Google Maps when they are at the destination to plan trips. Older children might like to

document their journey with Facebook, Twitter or Instagram although you might like to consider other scrapbook, photo and video apps. Make sure that every posting is safe and does not tell people where you are going to be but reports on where you have been.

Ollee - a new app to support children's wellbeing



Parent Zone have launched a new app - Ollee - for 8-11 year olds, funded by BBC Children in Need's A Million & Me initiative. Ollee is a 'digital friend' who supports wellbeing by helping children and their families talk about their feelings and difficult topics. Find Ollee and try it out at: <https://app.allee.org.uk>

TikTok - Family Safety Mode

Although TikTok has an age limit of 13, we are aware that pupils of all ages use it and its popularity has grown hugely during the two lockdown periods in 2020. We are hearing from many schools and parents that their children are Tiktok users.

As with all social networks, users need to be aware of the risks as well as the opportunities and it's vital that parents monitor their children's use. To support parents in this, a new Family Safety mode has been launched. It allows parents to link their own account to their children's and set restrictions on content, contact and manage screentime. Common sense have a useful guide to Tiktok for parents at:



<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

New website to find the right video games for your family



Video games are incredibly popular and, during lockdown, many families have found them a great way to entertain children and to enjoy family time by playing together. The huge number of games available can make it challenging to know which games are the most appropriate for your family. Luckily, help is available in a brand new website:

<https://www.taminggaming.com/>

Netflix Parental Controls

Many families use Netflix as one of their main sources of viewing, with adults and children enjoying the choices available and being able to watch what you want, when you want.

For parents and carers, it's vital to supervise what our children are watching and use the settings available to reduce the risk of them coming across inappropriate or upsetting content.

Netflix has its own guide to using Parental Controls at:

<https://help.netflix.com/en/node/264>



Contact the compiler

Please contact me if you would like more information, please put Online Safety in the subject line.

Nicky Newbury headteacher@bratton.wilts.sch.uk

Bratton Primary School (01380 830511)