Brookfield School

A brief guide to keeping your child safe online.

Welcome back and hope you've had a wonderful Summer

Are you aware of the age ratings on the apps that your child may use? For example, did you know that the age rating for WhatsApp is age 16?

These are the age ratings for other popular apps that your child may have access to.

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 ratings on games 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.

If you would like further information about age ratings look at...
        https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings
for a more in depth article on why age ratings are important.

Remember to be kind online.

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face with each other. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face. How they act online should be how they behave on the school playground when they are following school rules. Here are some examples of what being unkind looks like online:

- Sending nasty or hurtful messages
- Leaving unkind comments
- Sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission
- Excluding somebody on purpose
- Impersonating somebody with a fake account
- Telling/sharing lies

The above might happen whilst your child is gaming online or whilst using social media or messaging apps for example.

Talk with your child to see if they know who to talk to if they have any concerns or worries whilst they are online. We will be covering Online Safety across this first term. Discuss with them on what they are learning each week.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter.

Mr R Elson
Techie Tips!