

A brief guide to keeping your child safe online.

Welcome back and hope you've had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

As Christmas time is often a time where new games / devices are bought and played with, it is important to consider what your child is using and whether any discussions or boundaries need to be put in place for their protection.



WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages, photos, videos and voice notes.

However, did you know that you need to be at least 16 years old to register and use WhatsApp? One of the key features of WhatsApp is the group chat function. Everybody within that group will be able to see and talk with each other. Though did you know that everyone in that group can also see each others contact details. And if your child is added to a group with someone that they may have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within this new group chat. Go through settings with your child so you can see who can add your child to groups, and encourage them to leave groups that make them feel uncomfortable. Did you know you can also share your location on WhatsApp? Maybe talk with your child sharing examples of why this may or may not be appropriate and its potential dangers.

YouTube



YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13. On average over three million videos are uploaded to YouTube daily. Therefore there may be videos uploaded that could be inappropriate for younger viewers. Explore YouTube together. Do you have an idea on what videos your child likes to watch, who they subscribe to. Make sure that your child understands that they can talk to you if they see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online.

New Devices and setting up parental controls;

All consoles and devices offer parental controls such as limiting time spent on the device or restricting who your child can communicate with. Use these below links for further reading on how to set up parental controls and restrictions on each device.



PlayStation: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/psn-safety-parents-guide/>



<https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>



<https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>



<https://www.apple.com/uk/families/>

<https://families.google/familylink/>

Android 

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

Mr R Elson
Techie Tips!