St Osyth C of E Primary School

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Friday 9th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The internet is wonderful but it is also a source of risk for children and it is so hard to keep up to date with how to keep children safe online and all the different elements of different apps and games. Therefore, I hope that the below is useful – especially with the possibility of new tablets and phones being delivered to children on Christmas Day.

Advice by age:

Younger children need different advice and guidance than older children. Older children need different advice and guidance than teens. It can be really difficult keeping up with everything that is online and what risks and issues may affect children of different ages, so on these pages there is some age-related advice and guidance for parents and carers
Pre-school - **https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/**
6 - 10 year olds - **https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/**
11 - 13 year olds - **https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/11-13/**
14 plus - **https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/14plus/**

Setting up devices:

It can be difficult knowing all the different settings that are available on different devices to help protect children, this includes allowing or disallowing chat, friends, spending money, content filters and much more. On these pages you will find the details, as well as non-technical instructions, which will help you understand what is available to you and how to set up your child's devices.
Gaming consoles and devices - **https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/**
Smartphones - **https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/**
Broadband and mobile networks - **https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/**
Entertainment and search engines - **https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/**

Safety/privacy settings on social media:

With many children and young people using social media it is important to understand what features are available to you to help protect your children. This is also important because for the most part, all privacy settings are default off when a new account is created, but also because some social media providers change their features quite frequently,
Take a look at this link to see what is available to you and how to set up your child's social media. We would also advise doing this with your child so that you can discuss the features together.
https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/

Useful new features on YouTube and YouTube Kids

YouTube is hugely popular with all age groups but historically parents haven't had a lot of control over what their children can/cannot watch. But things have changed and YouTube now gives parents a greater degree of control. It isn't perfect but it is a step in the right direction. Take a look at the page below where you will see a few short videos of newer features that can help you on YouTube and YouTube Kids.

https://www.esafety-adviser.com/youtube-parental-restrictions/

Gaming

Finding good games, as well as knowing what is appropriate for the age of the child isn't easy, particularly when there can be lots of peer pressure to play the more popular games which are not always appropriate. Taming Gaming is a great resource for parents to find new games for children as well as lots of advice about content, suitability etc.

https://www.taminggaming.com/

Yours sincerely,

M Carter-Tufnell
(Headteacher)