



Online Safety Newsletter – Autumn 1 2024

This term we have discussed with all children from Reception to Year 6 about how to stay safe online. As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. Each half term we will share advice and resources to support you to support your child in using the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

Mobile phones are now an item all children have access to whether it is their own or using their parents'. Below are some tips about keeping mobile phones safe and secure. Children are not allowed to have phones during the school day. Some Year Six children walk to and from school independently so bring phones with them. These are securely stored in the school office through the day.



Talk with your child about responsible use of their phone

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use their phone for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used, this could include things like the phone being charged outside their bedroom overnight.



Discuss what to do if something upsetting or worrying happens

Give them the strategies they need in case something concerning happens whilst they are using their device. This could be to lock the screen and tell an adult, to make a report to the platform they are using, or to block the user.



Explore parental controls

Take a look at the controls available both on the phone itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.



What's App

We have had reports this half term of children using what's app and being part of large group chats where they do not know all of the participants.

WhatsApp is a free mobile messaging app which allows users to send and receive messages, images, and videos to their existing phone contacts, using an internet connection. WhatsApp users can create groups and send messages to lots of their friends at the same time.

WhatsApp is end-to-end encrypted meaning that only the sender and recipient can see the contents of a message.

The Age limit for What's app is 13+

What's App Teen Information Centre has more information and tips on how to check security setting on the app.

https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949/?helpref=uf_share

If you need any further advice or support with online safety, please come and talk to us in school.

Mrs Mainwaring