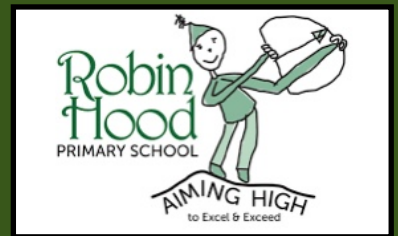


Gotta' Be Safe Online

Half-termly newsletter: Autumn 2020/21



Firstly, welcome back! I trust you have all managed to have a well earned rest over the summer. You may remember during our school closure, that I sent out our first edition of this newsletter. The purpose of this is to keep the conversation around Online Safety alive within our school community.

We know that children will have used digital devices at home more than ever over the last few months, but hopefully this resource will support parents in feeling confident to tackle issues which may arise at home.

Discussion points for this term...

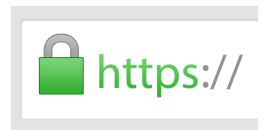
Age restrictions aren't in place to stop us from having fun online, but they are there to help keep us safe. Websites, games and apps can have an age restriction so that our parents know whether these are appropriate or not.



Passwords should be kept private so that our personal information is safe. When creating them, they must be memorable and must use a combination of lower case letters, capitals, symbols and numbers.



When deciding whether a website is safe to access or not, there is one very easy way to find out! In the search bar, if you can see **https** within the link, the website is deemed 'secure'. There is of course no guarantee but these are safer than http sites.



FOUR APPS TO WATCH OUT FOR



TIKTOK

TikTok featured in our last newsletter, but it's popularity continues to grow. The age-rating of this is set at 13+ due to the risk of unwanted imagery. Just recently, a video of a man shooting himself went viral.



YOLO

YOLO is used alongside Snapchat, giving users an opportunity to ask anonymous questions. Most recently, there has been stories going round on social media, highlighting the issue around cyber-bullying.



YOUTUBE KIDS

A much safer version of YouTube, which allows you as a parent to select channels and videos for your child to enjoy. You can also disable the 'search' feature to prevent your child from coming across unwanted content.



TRILLER

Similar to TikTok, Triller is a video sharing platform. Created videos can be shared across the app and users can comment even if they do not follow you. There is a distinct lack of parental controls on this app.

Your questions answered:

Thank you to those parents who have sent their questions in to be featured in this term's newsletter. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Mr Beeston. I am the Computing Lead at Robin Hood and currently teach in Year 5. I hope you find my advice useful...

Q: Will there be any parent workshops this year?

A: When guidance allows, we will definitely look to involve parents with sessions as these were really useful last year. I am hoping that all year groups can invite parents in during Online Safety Week later in the year.

Q: How can I reduce screen time for my son?

A: This is a tricky one, but I think it's much easier to tackle this as a whole family because parents really can set the example here. Consider set times where the whole family put screens down - especially at the dinner table! Have a cut off time in the evening where screens aren't allowed for children and encourage them to find new hobbies such as sport, something creative or enjoying the great outdoors. Advice can be found at [Click for more support](#).

Q: Is Fortnite safe for my child?

A: Technically speaking, Fortnite has an age restriction of 12 due to the nature of the game, but please be assured that it is not as graphic as other shooting games, due to its cartoon nature. You can find more advice here [Advice on Fortnite](#)

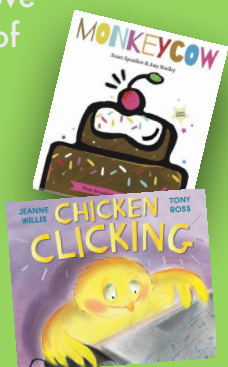
Q: When should I buy a mobile phone for my children?

A: This is absolutely down to what you feel comfortable with as a parent, My advice is that a mobile phone seems a good option when you child is mature enough to know the dangers but also for when they may be walking home alone or being more independent.



A Book Loving School!

To continue promoting our love for books, there are plenty of exciting stories out there which can support in the teaching of online safety. We will be looking at lots later in the year as part of our annual Online Safety Week.



Quiz Time!

1. What is the age restriction for Snapchat?
2. Who invented the World Wide Web?
3. Other than gaming, name four things that we use the Internet for.



Support Zone

- Free advice posters available at <https://nationalonlinesafety.com>
- Chance to explore Interland at https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us/
- Expert advice for parents at <https://parentzone.org.uk/home>

