



Woodlands Primary School Online Safety Newsletter Term 3

February 2019

Welcome to our next Online Safety Newsletter!

Welcome to another addition of Woodland's Online Safety Newsletter.

Christmas seems like a long time ago now but I am sure technology played a large part in your some of your celebrations.

Please remember that setting parental controls on devices with Internet connectivity is vital. It isn't always perfect though—ensure you talk to your children about what they are talking about online too. Keeping communication going means they are more likely to come to you when something isn't quite right.



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Reporting Harmful Content

When it comes to reporting harm online, the Safer Internet Day Digital Friendships research (Feb 18) found that just over half of young people aged 8 – 17 would choose to report something that upset them online.

There are many different ways to report unsavoury or unwanted content online such as the 2 listed below:

ReportHarmfulContent.Online

- If you have any questions or queries regarding any of the content in this newsletter please email

admin@woodlands.wilts.sch.uk

and please put Online Safety in the subject line.

CEOP



By accessing either of these websites you are able to report any content that you or your children find upsetting. Similarly, should the content be within a game being played you can usually report to the game itself.

More harmful content should be reported to help stamp it out and make gaming on and browsing the internet safer and more enjoyable for all.

Screen Time

There is no such thing as a single solution regarding children and screen time that would work for everyone. However, there are tools that can help us with this. One new tool is the new "Take a Break" reminder within YouTube (Phone version only at the moment).

The reminder is off by default but you only need to go into 'General' within 'Settings' to turn it on.

It's a great way to allow children to regulate their own use, and even to help you set up a family agreement as to how long they can spend watching videos.

See here for more information:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/9012523>

Parents Vs Kids

Parents vs Kids—are you ready?

Play the Parents vs Kids Alexa quiz from O2 and NSPCC. This is great for starting conversations about staying safe online. The whole family can play to see who knows the most about the online world. Play here: <https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc/parents-vs-kids>

Online Chatting



What are your children saying online?

Most games now include some form of chat facility; this can be via a headset or via a messaging feature within the game. It is very easy within these chats to behave in a way that children wouldn't if they were face to face with each other e.g. it is easier to call another child a nasty name via a screen than to say it to their face. These type of incidents can quickly escalate as online environments are often unsupervised so whereas an incident of name calling on the playground is quickly brought to the attention of a member of staff this doesn't happen in an online environment and this then begins to affect their relationships and their learning in school.

Talk to your children about how they are speaking to their friends online. Sit with them while they are playing the game to see how your child chats with others, is it always appropriate? Explain to them what to do if they are called nasty names, how should they respond and what they can do if a situation escalates.

Minecraft PEGI rating 7-13 depending on version

Minecraft remains ever popular with it being played by 91 million people every month. Minecraft is a great learning tool and is often used in schools to teach coding.

However, if your child is playing Minecraft, you need to be aware that in multiplayer mode they can chat with other people, most possibly strangers. For younger children we would recommend turning the chat facility off. To do this:

- Click 'options'
- Select multiplayer settings
- Click on chat—choose shown, hidden or commands only.

If you choose to keep the chat facility on then make sure your child knows what to do if anything upsetting happens.

In addition, protect your child's privacy by using a nickname and also chat to your child to make sure that when playing online they know not to tell others personal information such as where they live, what school they go to and their age.

More information is available here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/minecraft-a-parents-guide/>

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.