Bourne Elsea Park C of E Primary Academy
E-Safety Newsletter December 2024

Welcome to our December newsletter all about E-Safety! This Christmas, some children may be lucky enough to receive a mobile phone, games console or other device that has the potential to connect to the internet. We know you will join us in wanting to keep them safe. Below is some information and guidance to help keep your child protected this Christmas.

Over recent years, the Local Authority have seen an increase in the number of schools reporting that students, while at home, have accessed content which is not always appropriate, some of which has been quite scary or upsetting. While there is no perfect way to eliminate this risk, they feel that there are things parents and carers can do to support their children online, reduce the risk or manage it after the fact. Here are some of the steps you can follow. Scan the QR codes for further support.

- Contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP): Companies that provide broadband such as BT, Sky and Virgin, offer free protection. They can filter your internet connection directly, without having to install anything.

- YouTube is a fantastic resource, but not all the content is appropriate for children and not all YouTube channels are made for young audiences. YouTube has an app just for children – YouTube Kids – but many people don't realise that the main YouTube app has a restricted mode.

- Games consoles have features that can limit what games children can play based on the age ratings, and can even turn off certain features to allow gaming to be a little safer.

- Games are also rated based on the content, not how difficult they are. 18 rated games can have very graphic violence, adult language and themes, sexual content and horror elements.

- Scan the QR code and complete a quiz about PlayStation safety.

Many parents/carers are unsure about how to set up parental controls. Scan the QR code for step by step guides for the following devices:

- Smart phones and other devices

- Entertainment and search engines

- Broadband and Mobile networks

- Social Media

- Gaming console

You can also use search for step by step guides in the search bar and find everything from Snapchat, YouTube and Whatsapp parental control settings to Google, EE and Sky.

Whilst parental controls and privacy settings are useful tools, they are not 100% effective. Skills such as **critical thinking** and **resilience** are crucial so children know what to do if they encounter risk.

Scan the QR code for the National Online Safety '12 Online Safety Tips for Christmas' to help guide children to enjoy their devices respectfully and safely.

The UK Safer Internet Centre has set out some top tips to help keep your household safe online over the holidays. Scan the QR code for tips about tablets, mobile devices, setting boundaries, having a 'whole home' approach and gaming.

Don't forget to check the E-Safety section of our school website and our Facebook page which has weekly E-safety guides.

Stay safe this Christmas!