Online Safety Newsletter- February 2022

Does your child have their own phone?

EE have launched PhoneSmart Licence, which is a course to help prepare children for having their own phone. It teaches them how to stay safe and be kind online. PhoneSmart is FREE and available to everyone, not just EE customers.

Your child will have to complete 5 sections and as they complete each episode, they will be rewarded with a sticker. Once they have collected all 5, they will be given their PhoneSmart Licence.

The site also includes several useful articles to support you, for example what to do when buying a phone, information about parental controls and where to go for further advice.

Follow the link below:

https://eephonesmart.co.uk/

My Family's Digital Toolkit

Would you like a personalised online safety toolkit? Answer a few questions about your children's digital habits and then you will receive age-specific advice to support your children online. The form does require an email address. You can find out more information here:

https://www.internetmatters.org/digital-family-toolkit/

Online Games with chat

Is your child playing games online?

Children can communicate online through lots of different apps, social media and games (Snapchat, WhatsApp, Instagram, Fifa, Fortnite), so it's important to know what your child is doing online and who they can communicate with so you can talk about the potential risks together.

Some games include communication between players; this could be via the in-game chat, direct messages or talking through headphones. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off or restrict bad language so make sure settings appropriate to your child are set up for each of the games they play.

Chatting to strangers

When playing online, your child might be playing games with people they do not know. It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players who make them feel uncomfortable and that they know to talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns.

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they wouldn't if they were face-to-face with each other. Talk to your child about how they are speaking to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect, like they would if they were face-to-face.

Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages (or see something that worries them) then they should not reply or engage in conversation with the person, but they should instead tell a trusted adult.

These additional links will provide you with further guidance and support about online games with chat:

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/talking-to-people-online-when-should-i-be-worried/

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus/Need-advice/online-gaming/