

E-safety Update – November

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you with a quick E-safety update in the hope that this will provoke conversation with your child on this topic and help continue to keep them safe online as well as being able to enjoy the technology they have access to safely.

Security settings – Now is always a good time to double check those security settings for social media. Talk to your child about the accounts they have. If they don't use certain sites anymore are they able to close those accounts?

- **Who, What, Where, Who**
 - *Are you aware of **who** can see information you post online?*
 - ***What** sites/apps are you using? Are you actively thinking about **what** you are posting?*
 - *Do images tag **where** you are? Your location? Is the content of the image giving your location away? (ie. School Uniform, landmarks etc)*
 - ***Who** do you have on your friends list? Spend time checking though who can see your information- Remove any unwanted connections.*
 - ***Who** is posting about you? Tagging images of you? Are their accounts secure (Friends of Friends)*

Antivirus –Antivirus is software (sometimes in the form of an app) which can protect your device against some online threats. As well as computers antivirus should be installed on all devices which connect to the internet. (e.g phones, tablets). It is important to keep antivirus up to date so it has the latest information about any threats which are out there. Antivirus can be purchased or there are any free versions which can be used.

- *Do you have antivirus on your phone or PC?*
- *Is it up-to-date?*

Digital footprint – Whenever we go online it is possible to leave a trail of all the things we have interacted with. Whether this is images we have posted, comments we have made and even games which we have played. Have you looked at your digital footprint lately? A quick way to see some of the impact (if your name isn't too common) is to google your name inside " " e.g "John Smith" if this doesn't work you could try "your name" and the town you live to narrow the search eg. "John Smith" Bude. You may be surprised in what you see.

Online communication – It is important to remember that we cannot be 100% sure about who we are talking to online even if we have been talking to someone for a long time. Use caution with the information you give away to people online. Never meet up with someone you have met online without a responsible adult and make sure you meet in a public place.

- *Who are your online friends and offline friends?*
- *What are your methods and frequency of communication?*
- *What apps are you using? What accounts do you have?*

By engaging in your child's use of technology including the positives as well as the risks I hope that it will encourage your child to talk more openly about their use of the internet including anything which is worrying them.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding E-safety please do not hesitate to contact me for more information please visit the schools website or <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/> .

Regards

Holly Hutchins

Leader of Learning for Computing and E-safety Lead