WHINMOOR





Autumn Term Online Safety Newsletter

New Year, New Class, New School?

With the excitement of a new school year and your child reaching a new milestone, many of us share photos of our child online without thinking about the associated risks. If you post online, then try following these basic rules:

• Do not post any photos of your child that show their school's logo/name or recognisable places by where they live that can make it easy for people to find out their location.

• Never include your child's full name.

• Are there any other children in the pictures you share online? If yes, do you have permission from their parent/carer to upload it?

• Would your child be happy for your comment/photo about them to be online – remember what might be 'cute' now may be embarrassing to them in the future.

• Make sure appropriate privacy settings are on. Alternatively, you could just share photos with those who you really want to share the photo with (grandparents etc.) via WhatsApp or iMessage rather than via social media.



<u>Meta</u>

Meta have announced new features for some of their products. Firstly, they have added parental supervision to Messenger (users must be 13+), which includes the ability to see who your child interacts with. Also, Meta have added a feature to encourage teens to set time limits on Facebook (users must be 13+) and new parental supervision features on Instagram (users must be 13+). Find out more here: https://about.fb.com/news/2023/06/parentalsupervision-and-teen-timemanagement-on-metasapps/





Children's Online Safety – The Four C's

It would be impossible to sum up all the dangers that online activity can pose but the four C's are an easy to understand way of identifying some of these.

<u>CONTENT</u> - if a child visits something online, what can they see, what content are they being subjected to?

<u>CONTACT</u> when they are using their technology, who are they talking to? Are you happy with this?

<u>CONDUCT</u> - this describes the behaviour of the child.

<u>COMMERCIALISM -</u> the internet, all the apps, games and services are driven by commercialism. Many of these services are free, but they have to make money somehow. We are all used to ads but commercialism also includes scams, identity theft, fraud etc.



New App – Threads

Threads was launched by Meta (creators of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp) in July and this is similar in design to Twitter. As with Twitter, users can share text posts (with images and videos) and then other users can respond to create a thread. You need to have an Instagram account to login to Threads and you must be at least 13 years old to create an Instagram account. For everyone 13 – 17 years old (in the UK), their account will automatically be set as private when they join Threads. As with Instagram, users can choose specific words to filter out of replies as well as hide comments that may be offensive. Users can also unfollow, block and report a profile. Any accounts that you have blocked on Instagram will automatically be blocked on Threads as well. Users can also change their settings on Threads so other users are unable to mention them in replies. If you have supervision set up on Instagram for your child (aged 13 - 17) then it will automatically be set up for Threads and the same settings will be applied, such as time limits and scheduled breaks. Threads is still being developed so new functions will be added but currently you are unable to direct (private) message other users. You need to be aware that your child may come across content that is not appropriate. If your child us using this app, then make sure they know how to use the reporting/blocking facilities, that appropriate privacy/safety settings are applied and they know to speak to a trusted adult should they need to.





Quiz Time!

a.) How many times does an average user take a selfie before they are happy to post it?

a.) 3 b.) 13 c.) 10 d.) 20

2.) What is the PEGI age restriction on the game Roblox?

a.) 7+ b.) 18 c.) 5+ d.) 12+

Answers at the bottom of the newsletter on previous page.

Never share your personal information.

Always tell a trusted adult what your online activity looks like. Make sure you know where the report button is if something makes you feel uncomfortable.