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6th February 2024



Online Safety Newsletter – Safer Internet Day

Dear Parents & Carers,

Today we have celebrated Safer Internet Day across the school. The theme this year is '**Inspiring** change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. We are spending some time completing a range of different activities across the school.

In EYFS, children have been exploring how technology has changed through time and designing technology of the future. In Key Stage 1, children have been discussing how changes online can make them feel and that if something doesn't feel right that they should ask a trusted adult for help. In Key Stage 2, children have been thinking about how technology's design, and influencers, can influence people's choices and they have been investigating ways to manage that influence. They also thought creatively about how using positive words and actions can make the internet a safer place for everyone.

The UK Safer Internet Centre have published some guidance and tips for parents and carers. Please take a few moments to look at the information they have published:

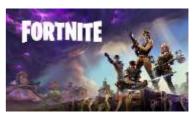
https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers

Online Safety Workshops

As a reminder, on Wednesday 6th March, we are being joined by Simon Aston (Online Safety and Wellbeing Officer) who will be running some online safety workshops with all children in Year 5 and Year 6. He will also be running a **parent workshop after school**. I have personally attended Simon's workshops in the past and they are very informative and offer practical advice on how you can help to keep your child safe online. We will be providing a childcare service (for current pupils) for the duration of this workshop.

Fortnite

Over the past few weeks, we have had an increasing number of reports from out young people about accessing Fortnite at home. The age certification of this is for children 12+ and the Battle Royale is 13+. Fortnite is posing an increasing concern. Please read the information below that has been written about young children accessing Fortnite. I have also shared National Online Safety's parents guide.



More and more children are talking about playing the game 'Fortnite'. Whilst we understand the game is very popular, it is also highly addictive and unsafe if played without strict monitoring.

Before your child plays Fortnite for the first time or goes back online, we urge you to take the time to learn more about it and the risks by reading the brief articles below.

For starters, the game is rated for aged 13 which means it is not recommended for any child at primary school. However, children as young as 5 are saying that they are playing everyday. There is absolutely no good reason a child this young should be playing the game. Apart from the mild violence, the game is designed for online chat with other players and is highly addictive. Addictive games often lead to tiredness, extreme behaviour and a lack of interest in other things. Young children simply should not be playing this game.

As a parent it can be difficult to make unpopular decisions for your children. Particularly when people in the media are promoting the game. That said, it is really important that your children are kept safe and their well-being is protected. Perhaps this is easier if you agree boundaries as a group of parents so all your child's friends are doing the same thing. Gaming is good fun but needs to be appropriate and carefully monitored

https://childmind.org/article/parents-guide-dealing-fortnite/ https://nationalonlinesafety.com/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide/ https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parents-guide-fortnite-battle-royale

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, you can find lots of help on the online safety section on our website, or you can contact myself via the school office. We'll always help if we can.

With regards Míss Walker

Miss Walker Computing Lead At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they teel It is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Flease visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CHAPTER

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALWAYS ONLINE

IN-GAME COSTS

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and ended to the provide a second seco anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters

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RESTRICTIO PEGI

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

FREQUENT UPDATES

Advice for Parents & Carers

MATCH GAMING TIMES

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BE WARY OF SCAMS

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Meet Our Expert

SET SPENDING LIMITS

ENJOY FORTN/TE TOGETHER

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USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

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