

**Online safety at home:**

 parents and carers newsletter

Church Walk CE Primary School

Monday 29th March 2021

Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However it’s important we all consider how we can support children’s online safety. Here’s some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer:

**Parental controls:** Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so this shouldn't replace the support and guidance you give your child to help keep them safer. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit [Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/).

**Supervise their online activity:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise. Primary-age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.

**Explore together and chat little and often:** Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won’t be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.

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**Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online**

**More information?**

**Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency’s Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP) whose aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online.**

**For more information, advice and guidance, visit their** [**parent’s website**](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents) **and download their** [**home activity worksheets**](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/) **for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.**

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. [YouTube Kids](https://www.youtube.com/kids/) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on YouTube: what parents need to know.

Remember, primary-age children should be supervised at all times when online.

**Watching videos**

The internet has many positive opportunities for children to learn and play, but it can also be used in negative and unkind ways.

It’s really important to speak to your child about being kind online, and how they can get help if they see or hear anything that makes them feel worried, scared or sad.

Use these [conversation starters](https://parentinfo.org/article/talking-to-your-child-about-being-kind-online) to help your child understand the importance of being kind online.

**Being kind online**