



As a parent you'll know how important the internet is to children - they use it to learn, play, and socialise. It's a highly creative place of amazing opportunities. But the technology children use every day can seem a bit daunting and you might worry about the risks your child can face online - such as bullying, contact from strangers or the possibility of them seeing illegal or inappropriate content. This Newsletter contains some helpful information about the apps your child may be using online as-well-as some useful links where you can find further advice and information.

If you are worried about something in relation to your child's online safety, please speak with one of the Designated Safeguarding Team in school.



What is TikTok?

Users can watch musical clips, record (up to) 60 second clips, edit them and add special effects.

Is your child old enough? You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

Why should I be concerned? Some of the songs used in this app may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view. If your child is using TikTok then we recommend setting the account as private.

Did you know? Even with a private account, your child's profile information such as their photo and bio is still visible so ensure your child understands the importance of not adding personal information (e.g. address, age and phone numbers).

More information can be found at:

www.internetmatters.org

www.parentzone.org.uk



Snapchat is a messaging app used to send photos, videos, text and drawings (called snaps) which disappear after they've been viewed. You should be 13+ to sign up. If you choose to allow your child to have an account then you should be aware of the following:

Snap Map (sharing their location) The Map lets users see where their friends are if a friend has chosen to share their location at any given time. Location sharing with friends via the map is optional and is off by default (we recommend that this remains the default setting).

Snapchat streaks

Streaks count how many consecutive days two people have been sending Snaps to each other. A streak is shown by a little picture of a flame and a number (the number of days the streaks has gone on for) next to a contact's name. There can be pressure to respond on a daily basis to maintain their streaks and it can cause issues with people logging into other's account to carry on streaks for friends.



What should I do if my child wants to upload videos on YouTube?

The decision obviously lies with you as the parent and regardless of your decision, it is really important that you maintain an open conversation. If you choose not to let your child post videos on YouTube

Fortnite is rated PEGI 12 for frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age to play. PEGI do not take into consideration the chat features when

rating games. Fortnite contains voice and text chat, which can contain inappropriate and explicit language. You can turn the voice chat off but not the text chat. As always, show your child how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour and ensure that they know that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.

In app purchases: All users can purchase V-Bucks directly through the game so make sure you don't store your credit card details and your child understands that they must check with you before making any purchases. We always recommend playing the game with your child so you can see what they are playing and monitor the sort of chat that they are listening/contributing to.



Do you **actually** know what apps your child is accessing on their devices. ...

Check out www.net-aware.org.uk/ for information and advice on everything from social media, apps and online gaming.