

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear parents and carers,

**Online Safety Newsletter – Spring 1 2023**

**Metaverse and VR headsets**

Facebook have recently released their VR headset that can connect users to their virtual Metaverse. Such devices, which can link users to the internet as virtual entities, increase the risk to children by giving them increased access to the internet and potentially exposing them to voice chat, text chat and photo sharing with sharing.

Over the coming years, the Metaverse will only increase in popularity so it is important that we have a thorough understanding of exactly what it is and any potential dangers associated to it. Please take the time to read the attached NSPCC guide explaining the Metaverse.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2022/christmas-vr-safety-advice-for-parents-metaverse/>

**Fortnite**

Fortnite (12+) remains a very popular game with many of our children. While many children see it as a risk-free game, there are of course many issues associated to it, including speaking to strangers and financial exploitation. Even if your child has not yet expressed an interest in the game, please take the time to read the following internet matters article on Fortnite.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/fortnite-battle-royal-parents-guide-keep-kids-safe-gaming/>

**Setting up new Apps, Games and Software**

Over Christmas, many children will have received new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles. With any new device it is incredibly important that the correct settings are put in place to ensure that they are being used correctly. Please take the time to read the attached National Online Safety guide that gives top tips for setting up any devices for children.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Stevens

Online Safety coordinator

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