

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear parents and carers,

**Online Safety Newsletter – April 2020**

**Zoom**

Due to the constraints of social distancing it is of course natural that we are using technology to keep in contact with friends and families. You may have seen articles in the media recently about Zoom and various security concerns. Although Zoom have recently increased their security to mitigate such risks, please take the time to familiarise yourself with the attached document from National Online Safety containing information and advice on using Zoom.

**Screentime**

It is wholly understandable that children will have increased their time in front of screens during lockdown as they use devices for home learning, communicating with friends and family, and to alleviate boredom. While it is rarely useful to look purely at the amount of time someone spends on a device, it is well worth taking the time to consider how and when your children are using screens. One important thing to consider is how late children are using screens. Sleep is extremely important for children's mental health and looking at screens before bed is known to result in poor sleep.

**YouTube**

YouTube can be a fantastic tool during the school closure for both children and adults. However, it is important that the correct steps are taken to ensure that children are safe when using it. Too often, children can either intentionally or accidentally view content that is not appropriate for them. To help mitigate this risk, we always recommend that children are in the same room as a responsible adult when viewing YouTube and that AutoPlay, the feature that automatically plays a new view, is turned off.

YouTube has many features that enable a child to have a safer experience, such as 'restricted mode' which hides mature and inappropriate content, and YouTube Kids, the dedicated YouTube site for children's videos. Please take the time to read the NetAware page for YouTube <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/youtube/> This page has information and advice on YouTube and details on using the settings, such as enabling restricted mode.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Stevens

Computing coordinator

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