Dear parents and carers,

Online Safety Newsletter – October 2020

Persuasive Design

Social media companies have spent a great deal of time, effort and money in ensuring that we stay on their sites for as long as possible. This is the process of Persuasive Design and can be a significant problem for our children and ensuring that they have sensible levels of screen time. The attached guide, produced by National Online Safety, provides details of risks, safety tips and actions you can take to ensure that your children are being safe when on their devices.

Roblox

Roblox is an online game that proves very popular with children of junior school age. Although it is generally safe for children, it is well worth being aware of the risks that are associated with it, in particular, the ability for children to chat to other people. Please take the time to read the following NetAware guide containing details of the risk associated to Roblox and support on how your child can use it safely, including setting the chat so that your child can only communicate with their friends. As with any online game, we would always advise that children use it when in earshot of a responsible adult rather than in their own bedroom with the door closed.

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/roblox/

Among Us

Among Us is a game that has surged in popularity recently and involves a group of 4-10 players working together to figure out who the imposter is in their crew before the imposter kills off the crew members. It comes with an age rating of 9+ on Apple's App Store and is largely appropriate for our older children, however, it does allow it's users to chat and communicate with strangers. If your child is using this game, please remind them of the dangers of talking to strangers online and what information it would be acceptable to share and what information they should keep private. As always, the best way to find out about a game your child is playing is to play it with them, but this article provides some useful information for parents.

https://protectyoungeyes.com/apps/among-us-app-review-parental-controls/

NSPCC Parental support

As a parent, it might feel that your child's use of the internet is constantly changing and you aren't always up to date with the latest apps and crazes that they are using and experiencing. The NSPCC is an excellent place to find

information and tips on a wide variety of online safety issues, including setting up parental controls, online games and video apps.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Yours sincerely,

Mr Stevens

Computing coordinator