

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Online Safety Newsletter – January 2021

TikTok

TikTok have announced that they are improving their privacy for 'younger users' by automatically setting accounts to private for anyone aged between 13-15. This is a good decision by them but relies upon the user indicating their correct date of birth at sign up. If your child has an account of their own, they would have had to lie about their date of birth when they created it and so TikTok may not know to apply these important changes to your child's account.

The following link has more information from TikTok on the changes:

<https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/strengthening-privacy-and-safety-for-youth>

Can I please take this opportunity to remind all of you that for very valid reasons, you must be 13+ to use TikTok. Please take the time to visit the NetAware page on TikTok for more information.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/tiktok/>

ThinkUKnow

ThinkUKnow, one of the leading experts on Online Safety, have produced a selection of 15 minute activities for parents to do at home with their children. These include such topics as **online gaming, social media** and **viewing videos online**. Please take the time to look at these activities and do any that you feel would benefit your children.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

WhatsApp

As would be expected during the closure of schools, many children are using the internet to stay in contact with their friends. In particular, children are using WhatsApp to facilitate group chats. With an age rating of 16+, we strongly recommend that our children do not use WhatsApp as a means to communicate. However, if you wish for your child to use it, please ensure that you are confident in the settings that they should have applied and that they are confident with how to use it in the safest possible way, by understanding such things as what is acceptable to share, what actions are appropriate and what they should do if something occurs that makes them uncomfortable.

Please take the time to read the NetAware page on WhatsApp which contains more information.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/whatsapp/>



Connaught

Junior School

"Caring, Confident, Committed"

Yours sincerely,

Mr Stevens

Computing coordinator

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