Market Field School

Safer Internet Day - 8ᵗʰ February

What is it?

Safer Internet Day inspires a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the celebration sees thousands of organisations get involved to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

Each year in the UK, Safer Internet Day explores a new issue or theme which is impacting the lives of young people in the UK. For 2022 the Day celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet and the ways they are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. The platforms young people use are spaces for connection, community and collaboration, which is why the Day challenges them to foster supportive relationships and respectful communities, whilst equipping them with the skills they need to keep themselves and others safe in these spaces.

Top Tips for Parents/Carers

Having conversations without judgement.
Whether by playing games, watching videos, or doing things your child enjoys, spending time together online is a great way to start conversations about the online world and how they're finding being a part of it. It is important to ask questions and take an interest in what your child enjoys online. An essential part of having this open dialogue is to not judge, even if their behaviour or life online isn't what you wanted or expected. This ensures that your child feels they can come to you if ever they make a mistake or experience a problem online.

Knowing where you can learn more about their favourite apps and games.
Websites like Common Sense Media or The Family Gaming Database can be invaluable sources of information. When your child starts talking about a new game or app, why not do some research into the reporting and blocking options available? Then you can help your child if they come to you with an issue.

Getting support if things go wrong.
There are lots of organisations who are there to support you and your family if something has gone wrong. The Report Harmful Content website can help you with issues such as cyberbullying, impersonation and threats. You can report worrying behaviour towards children to CEOP. Find out more on Childnet's Get Help page.

Reassuring your child that whatever happens online, you are there to support them.
Let your child know that the best way to address any problem they have online, is to tell a trusted adult immediately. For example, this might include someone sending them a friend request; an online message; telling them to visit a specific website, or app; or asking them for their personal information. Reassure them that if anything happens online that they are unsure about, or makes them feel worried or upset, they can come to you for help.
Find out more information on Safer Internet Day 2022 - UK Safer Internet Centre

The Two Johns

John and John spent many years working as Police Detectives in various covert roles tackling Online and Offline Child Exploitation. The '2 Johns' are regarded as experts in their field and every year they work in hundreds of Primary and Secondary Schools interacting with Children, Teachers and Parents. They work in the Essex area and regularly deliver free training. You can find more information on their website along with details about upcoming events. We would strongly recommend you watch some of their Facebook lives if possible! Home - eSafety Training

Let's TALK

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) have created a TALK checklist to help you keep your child safe online. This guide has been created for all parents and carers to increase awareness of the risks of online child sexual abuse.

The **TALK** checklist lists four steps that you can use to help keep your child safer online.

***T**alk to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.

***A**gree ground rules about the way you use technology as a family.

***L**earn about the platforms and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.

***K**now how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online."

The site also provides advice on spotting the signs as well as contact details for other organisations should you need any further help

https://talk.iwf.org.uk/

Support for Parents

This webpage has lots of fantastic advice and checklists that can be used to support parents with children of any age. Find out more here:
Information, Advice and Support to Keep Children Safe Online (internetmatters.org)

Fortnite

Is your child playing Fortnite? It is rated PEGI 12 for frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age.

It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Fortnite does include a chat facility, which adds further risks.

What is Fortnite?
There are different versions of Fortnite, including a free-to-play Battle Royale game (although money can be spent within the game) where up to 100 players compete against each other.

What do I need to be aware of?
- **Chatting to strangers and inappropriate language**: Fortnite contains voice and text chat. Due to the nature of the game, your child may be chatting to strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour.
- **In app purchases:** All users can purchase V-Bucks directly through the game. This currency can be used to purchase items in the Fortnite store so make sure you don't store your payment details within the game/device and restrict purchases.

Parental Controls
Fortnite includes several parental controls to help you make it a safer environment for your child including disabling voice chat, filtering language and setting privacy settings. Find out more about parental controls here:
https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/parental-controls. Also, remember to set up age-appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on as well.

Further information
https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gamingconsoles/fortnite-chapter-2-battle-royale-parental-controls-guide/