# E-safety Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you about the e-safety elements of our curriculum and to provide advice regarding how to ensure the safety of your children whilst they are online.

From Mr Silvester.

## E-safety in school

As part of the computing curriculum, we deliver key age appropriate lessons to ensure that our children are safe and responsible users of technology, both at home and in school.

Key themes already taught:

- Online bullying
- Not sharing personal information

Key themes next term:

- Using iPad apps safely
- Trolling

E-safety is not just taught in our computing lessons. Staying safe online is a message that is discussed on a weekly basis within our school . Children are encouraged to speak to parents or trusted adults about the things that they do on the internet and any concerns that they may have.

## What do the children do online?

Current trends of which games to play and which apps to use are always changing which makes it difficult to keep up with all the possible threats online. During school time I make an effort to speak to different year groups in order to get an understanding of current trends.

## What are the results?

Many of our children, although they do not have direct access to, talk about how they use the following apps:

- Facebook (13+)
- Instagram (13+)
- TikTok (13+)
- Snapchat (13+)
- YouTube (13+)
- Snapchat (16+)

Although all the apps mentioned above have an age rating that is above the age of the children at Featherstone, it is very easy to sign up to/download one of these apps and use it.
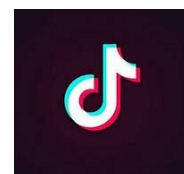
## TikTok

TikTok is essentially a social network that allows users to make video clips, lip sync to their favourite songs, create short videos, as well as view the clips and videos of others. There is also the option to **live stream** videos and **directly interact** with users via the online chat.

When you sign up for TikTok, your account is public by default, meaning anyone can see your videos, send you direct messages, and use your location information. Parents should make sure to turn on all privacy settings for accounts kids are using, so only people you know can interact with your videos or message you on the app.

Because of TikTok's emphasis on popular music, many videos include swearing and sexual lyrics, so it may not be age-appropriate for kids to use on their own.

YouTube

After speaking with many children at Featherstone, it is clear that watching YouTube videos plays a big part of their online life at home. Whilst I agree with the children that some of these videos can be entertaining, it is also clear that some YouTubers have a big impact on our children and can be very influential, positive or negative.

"You may never have heard of half the folks your kids watch on YouTube. But YouTubers are super influential on kids, garnering millions of views. And unfortunately, information about YouTube channels – the content, quality, and age-appropriateness, for example – isn't easy for parents to find." – Common Sense Media Website.

What do we suggest?

- "YouTube Kids" is an app that can be downloaded that provides "Kid-targeted videos with parental guidance."
- Read reviews of YouTube channels to gage whether they are suitable for your child. Available at: www.commonsensemedia.org/youtube-reviews
- Simply ask your child what type of videos/YouTubers they watch and watch a video with them to see what they discuss.
- Encourage children to subscribe to their favourite YouTubers (that you are happy with) as this will encourage children to watch their videos rather than searching for potentially negative videos.
- Go to your YouTube account settings and toggle on "Restricted Mode" at the bottom of the page.

Whilst it is not my aim to deter children from using YouTube, I am aware that the official age rating for this is 13+ and that there are many potential risks in watching YouTube videos that you need to be aware of.

At Featherstone, our aim is to make the children responsible and safe internet users. We will continue to teach the children regarding how to stay safe online and will encourage them to speak to a trusted adult if they have any concerns.

If you have any concerns, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Alternatively, you can get further information from the following websites:

- www.net-aware.org.uk
- www.internetmatters.org
- commonsensemedia.org

Mr Silvester (Year 6 Teacher and Computing Lead)