



Dear parent/carers,

The safeguarding of our pupils remains our number one priority during these extraordinary times of remote learning and we want to reinforce the importance of children being safe online.

Through Class Dojo, your child's class teacher will keep you fully updated on what your child/ren are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access (if any) and will make it clear who from the school you and your child will be interacting with on Class Dojo. However, it is likely that your child/ren will be accessing the internet beyond this. Although the internet has many positive benefits for home learning, as a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child/ren to stay safe online. **Remember, you don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child safe.** Our advice and resources are here to support you as you support your child to use the internet **safely, responsibly and positively.**

Firstly, it is important that you know what games/sites/apps your child is accessing. Just like you would never let your child leave the house without knowing where they are going, always check what sites your child is visiting on their devices and whether these are age appropriate. Safer internet messages are also particularly important. Please discuss the points below with your child:

- Privacy settings – Check that your child knows about the privacy settings of their favourite accounts and check together that these settings protect them from being contacted by strangers.
- Awareness – Discuss whether your child knows the rules about how to behave and stay safe on the sites, games and apps that they use. Check they are aware of how to block, mute and report other users that aren't behaving, and encourage them to inform you if they are concerned or upset about anything. Also, think about your own awareness here-Are you aware of the games, apps, sites that your child is accessing? Are these age appropriate?
- Consent – Discuss the importance of asking others before sharing something about them (including selfies) and remind them that things which we may think are okay or funny might actually worry or upset someone else.
- Collaborate- The more young children interact with parents, carers and other loved ones, the better, particularly in these times of isolation and screen time is no exception. Skyping with other family members and watching a children's TV show together, while chatting about the plot, are good examples of helping young children use screens in a productive way.

Alongside this, we would also like to point out some additional support available to you including tips, guides and resources through the following websites:

**Internet Matters:** This site provides age-specific online safety checklists to guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices. You will find a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world. <https://www.internetmatters.org>

**Parent Info:** This site offers advice and guidance on balancing the amount of screen time, setting parental controls, safety settings and how to approach discussions with your children. <https://parentinfo.org>

**UK Safer Internet Centre:** This site offers support and advice on security settings, spotting advertising/fake news and parental controls you can put in place.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Further guidance and information can also be found on the school's website.

For any safeguarding concerns please contact Jane Chambers [head@orchard-pri.notts.sch.uk](mailto:head@orchard-pri.notts.sch.uk)

Keep well and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Jane Chambers

Headteacher