



Wednesday 15th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

With December right around the corner, and the increased reliance on technology for staying connected with friends and family, our focus on ensuring the online safety of our children becomes even more crucial.

For your convenience, the Online Safety page on our school website is a valuable resource, regularly updated with the latest guidance and advice (www.grimoldbyprimaryschool.co.uk/online-safety). Here are some friendly reminders to keep in mind:

Open Communication: Engage in open conversations with your child about their online activities. Ask them about their preferences and experiences with various apps and websites. A lot of children nationally worry that, when they share something online that concerns them or is a potential danger, their parents will take the device off them. This leads to some children not telling their parents because of fear of this. Transparent communication is key, fostering trust without the need for secrecy.

Thinkuknow: Explore the Thinkuknow online safety education program by the National Crime Agency. It provides free advice and guidance for both children and parents, promoting a safer digital environment (<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>).

Available Support: Ensure your child has a trusted adult to share any worries or concerns, especially if they come across inappropriate or unsettling content online. Remind them of the availability of Childline (0800 1111) and reassure them that seeking help is always okay.

Parental Controls: Take advantage of parental controls on devices, apps, and games. Many platforms offer simple ways to set up these controls, and if you need assistance, there are guides available online and on YouTube. Speak to other parents too and share the knowledge!

TikTok Monitoring: If your child uses TikTok, consider pairing their account for parental monitoring. This extra layer of oversight is vital given the challenges of shielding inappropriate content on platforms like TikTok (<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/resources/for-parents?lang=en&appLaunch=web>).

Understanding PEGI Ratings: As technology advances, it's beneficial for parents to grasp PEGI ratings and their significance. Familiarise yourself with the PEGI website (<https://pegi.info/page/pegi-age-ratings>) to better understand age-appropriate content and potential concerns in games.

Remember, the essence of online safety remains consistent, and asking, "Do I know what apps or games my child uses online?" is the fundamental question. Your commitment to ensuring their safety in the digital world is amazing and we will do everything we can to support that.

If you're ever unsure or need advice or support, do not hesitate to reach out to me and I'll do my best.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Spendlow
Deputy Headteacher

"Being the best that we can be..."