



ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

May 2021

Welcome to Annie Lennard Primary School's new online safety newsletter. We hope to bring these to you regularly with information regarding how you can help your children stay safe online and things you need to be aware of such as new apps, games, and more! We also hope to celebrate the amazing work that children in each year group have done with regards to online safety as well as set governor challenges that you and your child can take part in!



ARE YOU A POS?

It is really important that you are a POS to your children (Parent Over Shoulder) when they are using any technology at home. There are a lot of issues that are brought into school that can be avoided by keeping a watchful eye on your child's online activity.



MR SMITH'S GAME WATCH

Each issue, we plan to include a game that is popular in school at the moment to help raise awareness for all parent.

This month's game—**Among us!**

What is Among Us?

Among Us is free to download and is rated 9+ by the App Store due to infrequent/mild horror/fear themes and infrequent/mild cartoon or fantasy violence. You play with 4 – 10 players whose task is to prep their spaceship by completing a series of tasks. However, one of the crew is an imposter who is trying to sabotage the game and kill the other crew members.

What do I need to be aware of?

In-app purchases - In app purchase are available priced from £1.99 - £2.99.

Play privately – games can either be played publicly or privately. To just play with people you know, set it to “private” and share the room code with them (this is the safer option).

Chat facility - If your child is playing a ‘public’ game (or even in a private room with people they don't know) then due to the chat facility, they may meet and chat with people which always creates an element of risk.

Inappropriate behaviour - If someone is being rude, then only the host can ban that player from the room so you are reliant on the host.

Parental Controls There is the ability to censor chat to filter bad words out (although there may be words that get through the filter.)



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WHATSAPP

You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages and videos.

One of the main features is that it has a group chat function that are set up by one person (who is the admin). Everybody in the group, even if they're not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages through the group. In settings, you can change who can add your child to groups, for example, you can change the settings to 'my contacts', which means that only those in your child's contacts can add them to a group.



WhatsApp has been used in instances of online bullying, for example sending nasty messages or sharing images of other children without their permission to embarrass them. We need to ensure we talk to our children about being kind online. Encourage them to think about their digital footprint by thinking about the things that they say, do and share online. We also need to lead by example and model the type of behaviour expected online.

It's also important to note that WhatsApp has a live location feature which allows you to share your real-time location for a specific amount of time. You can change your options in settings to never share your location. If your child is using WhatsApp, then show them how to block and report contacts and remind your child that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Further information— <https://www.whatsapp.com/safety/>

MONITORING APPS

Would you like to monitor what your child is doing online? The best app to use will be dependent on what devices your child is using but this helpful article from Internet Matters reviews the top monitoring apps for you:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/monitoring-apps-parents-guide/>

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns then please contact either Mrs Crozier, Mrs Rogman or Mrs Hadden and they can help you where they can!