



# ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

July 2021

Welcome to this month's issue of our online safety newsletter! We hope that this continues to inform you on 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!



## MR SMITH'S GAME WATCH



### 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.

### This month's game—**Fortnite!**

Is your child playing Fortnite? It appears to remain popular, so we thought we'd provide an update for you. It is rated PEGI 12 for frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age.

#### **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. More information about what in-game purchases are can be found here:

**Addictive nature:** Games such as Fortnite can be addictive. It is important that children play games in moderation and that they continue to exercise and have other interests as well.

**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.



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## TIKTOK

**YOU MUST BE 13 YEARS OR OLDER TO USE TIKTOK** . Tiktok allows users can watch musical clips, record 60 second clips (it includes lots of lip synching and dancing), edit them and add special effects.

**Is your child using TikTok?** TikTok have created their top 10 Tips for you, which provides a really useful overview of settings to make TikTok a safer environment: <https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/tiktoks-top-10-tips-for-parents>

**Privacy settings** . It is safer for an account to be set to private (therefore only people your child chooses to accept can follow them) although you would still need to talk to your child about only accepting requests from people they know in real life. You can also set whether or not people can comment on their content. Reporting, as with any app/website your child is using to interact with others, ensure that they know how to delete, report or block another user as well as know how to report any inappropriate content that they come across:

**Direct messaging/commenting** TikTok has a direct messaging element so users can chat to each other (**TikTok now automatically disables Direct Messages for registered accounts under the age of 16**) as well as the ability to comment on each other's content. There is a risk on TikTok that cyberbullying can occur, or a user can receive unwanted attention from a stranger. TikTok have produced this list of available settings to reduce the risk of this happening (<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/resources/anti-bully?lang=en>.) It is important that your child understands that if they come across anything that they don't like or makes them feel uncomfortable then they should speak to you or another trusted adult.

**Family safety mode** TikTok have created Family Pairing to help you keep your child safe whilst using TikTok. Family Pairing allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's account.

**Further information** <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/resources/anti-bully>



## 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 would like to make any suggestions or comments regarding this newsletter then please contact Mr Smith on  
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If you have any questions or concerns then please contact either Mrs Crozier, Mrs Rogman or Mrs Had-