



ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER



NEED MORE INFORMATION?



Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP) whose aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online.

For more information, advice and guidance, visit their [parent's website](#) and download their [home activity worksheets](#) for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.



Dear Parents and Carers,

Much of the advice in this Newsletter was taken from **Thinkyouknow**, additional advice was provided by the staff at Pear Tree Primary and other sources.

Please take the time to read the tips and advice in this booklet as eSafety is now more important than ever, with access to the internet being so widespread and part of our everyday lives. A couple of settings that take a few minutes to set/change could give peace of mind.

The Pear Tree Staff



STEPS TO TAKE

Parental controls: Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so this shouldn't replace the support and guidance you give your child to help keep them safer. More information on parental controls are below.

Explore together: Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won't be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.

Ask: If in doubt about whether a program, video, game, app or website is unsafe or age appropriate, ask us for help.

Restrict access: Set-up your device/phone/TV etc... to block access to age inappropriate content. You can set-up multiple accounts on a device to allow older viewers to view content that the other accounts cannot.

Supervise their online activity: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise. Primary-age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.





CHATTING AND BEING KIND



The internet has many positive opportunities for children to learn and play, but it can also be used in negative and unkind ways.

It's really important to speak to your child about being kind online, and how they can get help if they see or hear anything that makes them feel worried, scared or sad.

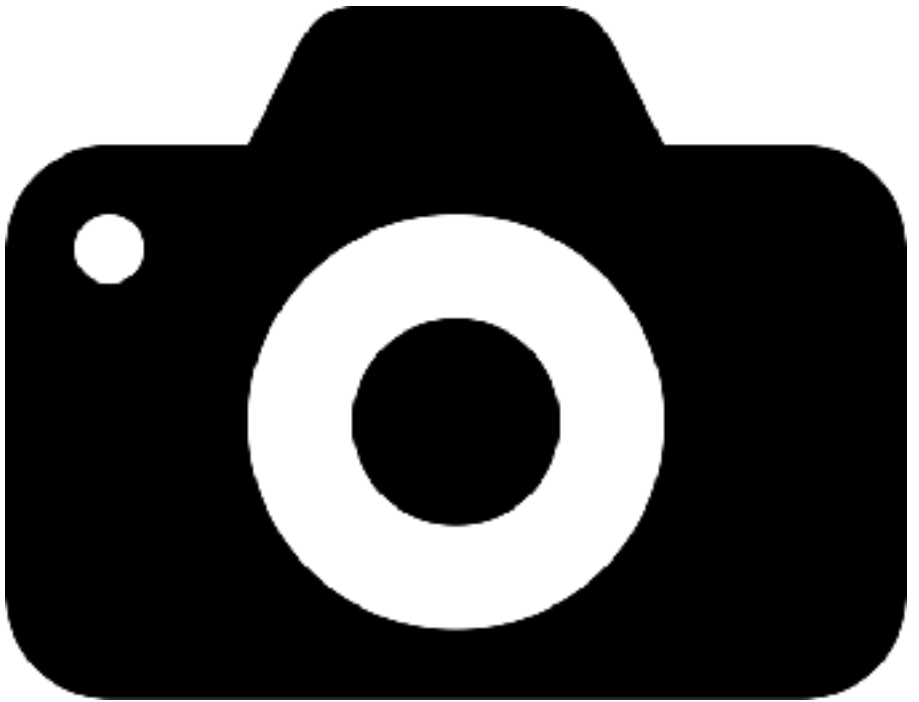
Use these [conversation starters](#) to help your child understand the importance of being kind online.

The term 'online friend' can be used to describe people you only know through the internet, or those that you also know offline. Some children make friends online by meeting new people through online platforms such as gaming sites.

To help children have positive online friendships, read this [handy guide](#).



Sharing Pictures





SHARING PICTURES

Using devices like phones and tablets to share pictures and videos can be a great way for children to have fun and stay in touch with friends and family. It's really important your child knows what's ok to share online and what they should check with you first.

Read [younger children sharing pictures or videos online](#) for more information on the risks and how to support safer sharing.

Sharing personal information online is easy and sometimes children, like adults, might share more online than they would offline, which can be risky.

Read [your child's personal information and how to protect it online](#) for information and advice.



Watching Videos

You Tube

You Tube



WATCHING VIDEOS

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. [YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on [YouTube: what parents need to know](#).

Remember, primary-age children should be supervised at all times when online.



Find out what to do if [you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online](#) or what to do [if they already have](#).



Gaming





GAMING

Lots of children and adults (*Mr P especially*) love gaming, they're a great way to relax, destress and engage with real world friends too. A few extra steps can make the experience safer too.

See our other booklet on setting up devices such as **Xbox's**, **PlayStations**, **iPads**, **Phones** and **Nintendos** to make them safer. In general though, the main advice is to create separate accounts for you and your children and to password/PIN protect your account, so that you can continue with age appropriate entertainment without worrying that your child can access content not suitable for them.

Most online games also have chat features, bear in mind that there's no way to moderate what other people in the real world can type, so the advice here is to look at the "chat advice" above.



FINALLY...

Remember, the internet is amazing, being able to access videos/games and music from anywhere on a multitude of devices is something that a few years ago would have been unthinkable, so make it safer too.

If you have any questions, worries or suggestions then please don't hesitate to [contact](#) the school and we'll be all too happy to help where we can.