Welcome to the December 2023 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Remember—Set up devices!

With Christmas almost upon us, Scomis would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some important safety points to consider if your child is likely to receive a:

- SMART device (TV, Speaker—Alexa, Google)
- new mobile phone (Android/iPhone)
- games console
- tablet PC or laptop

Consider the following tips:

- Make sure the device is working correctly
- Charge it up
- Set up the device and try it before you wrap it up
- Check the parental controls
- Check the safety settings
- Ensure filtering is applied to your home's Wi-Fi

Need help with the above points. Check advice published on the following websites:

Internet Matters Parental controls Step by step guides for Broadband, Smartphones, Social Media, Games Consoles. View and download their checklist.

Parentzone Setting up new technology Access Parentzone's library of resources here. Read their complete guide to setting up SMART toys and speakers

Childnet review advice on Screen Time and boundaries. Find out what the 'experts' and 'parents' say. Find out what children and young people think

UK Safer Internet Centre's Parent Guide Advice on using: SMART speakers safely includes setting up parental controls SMART TVs includes how to use safely and parental controls Games Consoles includes top tips to stay safe - *think about the location of the game console!*

NSPCC Find out all about CHAT Apps and how to keep your child safe when using:
WhatsApp; KiK; Telegram; Omegle;
Gaming Chats; Chat Rooms; Live Streaming and Video Apps
Try the NSPCC's Online Safety quiz

STOP PRESS! In this newsletter, we have also included a link to Netflix's
Help Centre for setting up Parental Controls
Learn how to:
Create a profile for kids
Set profile maturity ratings or block titles
Turn autoplay previews on or off
Access viewing history for a profile

Remember — Talk to your child about Online Safety!

Do you know the key issues?
Visit the following websites to find out:
Parentzone – Guides for parents review digital guides, advice and videos on social media including:
Cyber Security, Virtual Reality, Loot Boxes and much more
CommonSense Media – Age based media reviews for families, including Games, Apps, Films and TV, books.
ThinkUKnow - Advice on keeping your under 5 safe
Learn about Jessie & Friends—advice for 4-7 year olds.
Watch the advice films for 8-10 year olds
Review the advice for 11-18 year olds
Get Safe Online advice on how to protect yourself, your family, your finances and devices online during the festive season.

Reminder—Be a good digital parent!

- Keep your passwords safe and **do not** share them
- Schedule notifications to turn off for certain times of the day
- Think about what **you** are sharing online. Are you sharing too much and putting your kids in danger?
- Give practical tips for dealing with unwanted content, conduct or contact
- Show your child how to take screen shots
- Reassure your child that they can talk to you or another trusted adult to ask for help

Need help? Visit the following websites for more guidance:
Vodafone's Digital Parenting Helping your family live a happy and safe digital life
Childnet's Parent and Carers Toolkit. Access to resources offering practical tips on keeping your child safe online, including:
Parents and Carers Resource Sheet
UK Safer Internets Centre's
Advice on key online issues includes guidance on how to report, when to report , where to report.
Internet Matters
Helping parents keep their children safe online find out about trending topics such as market place Apps like Temu.

Online Safety resources for children with SEND

NSPCC partnering with Ambitious about Autism, have created online safety tips, advice and activities for parents and carers of children with SEND, including children with dyslexia, autism and speech and language difficulties.
Access resources listed below:
Sharing personal details
Friendships online
One-page profile
Cyberbullying for children with SEND visual article
Talking to people online for children with SEND visual article

Remember — Many devices now connect to the Internet!

- Internet connected devices can send and receive data
Examples of internet connected devices include:
- Doorbells, CCTV, Toys, robots, drones and much more
If not set up properly, the risks include being hacked:
- Software developers or hackers may be connected to your device without your knowledge
- Baby monitors, children's tablets, drone toys, can be hacked and used by people outside of your home.
Find out how to keep you and your family safe and visit the
NSPCC's website

HELP IN THE HOLIDAYS!

Don't forget! advice is just a phone call away from the NSPCC helpline **0808 800 5000**
Childline **0800 1111**
Websites to check:
Childnet's Parent and Carer's Toolkit
ThinkUKnow's advice for Parents

Have a happy safe Christmas!

SCOMIS
Your ICT Partner