Online Safety News

Spring Term 3 2019

Etwall Primary School

Apps my children might be using!

Although child-friendly apps can make using the internet a more accessible and enjoyable experience, the thousands of apps available for different types of people mean it's important to make sure children use appropriate ones.

Visit
https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-guide/

to find some of the most common apps available. It also highlights those that might create risky situations for children, such as unintentionally revealing personal information, stranger danger and generating large bills through in-app purchasing (information taken from www.internetmatters.org)

During our Online Safety work, it has come to our attention that many of our children are playing games and apps, that might not be appropriate for their age, for example 'Snapchat', 'Roblox', 'Fortnite' and 'Grand Theft Auto 5'. To the right is a link to a fantastic website, that gives you advice on the games and apps, that your children might be playing so that you can make an informed decision as to whether or not they are appropriate for your children to use.

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/

Remember to talk to your children about the apps that they are using on a regular basis and do your research!

Remind children to speak to a trusted adult if something inappropriate happens to them online.

FORTNITE

Fortnite is a game suitable for children aged 13 years and over. It pits players against 99 others in a frantic fight for survival on an island where the last gamer standing is the winner. Although the game involves team work, problem solving and develops a rapport with other players, there are also many disadvantages. The game is loaded with violence. Players can also buy skins (outfits), gliders, pickaxes and dance moves for their character so disabling your child's in-app purchases on your child's phone would be a sensible idea if you do not want to end up with a surprising Fortnite bill.

The school also feels that it is important to point out that predators are using gaming apps such as Fornite to groom children by buying them add-ons.

This game can also play on children's minds and be highly addictive.

Apps my children might be using!

Child-friendly apps your children will enjoy!

With over 1.6 million apps available to download from the Android and Apps stores and at least 1,000 apps added each day, there is so much choice and it can be difficult to keep up.

To give you a helping hand, internet matters have pulled together a list of age-appropriate apps that'll help your child get the best out of the internet (information taken from www.internetmatters.org)

Snapchat

In short, Snapchat is a "disappearing" messaging app. It allows users to send photos or videos accompanied by short text messages, which can be viewed for a short amount of time.

Snap Maps

Snap Maps is a feature on Snapchat that enables users to see locations of those they are connected to.

Please ensure that you speak to your child about who they are sharing their location with.

The school also feels that it is important to point out that predators are using this app to locate victims.

Snapchat Streaks

Snapchat streaks count how many consecutive days two people have been sending Snaps to each other. Every day they send a Snap their streak gets longer. Although this seems to be more of a problem in secondary schools, it is important for parents to know how seriously some children take them—some people are even offering to streaksit for people when they are on holiday.

Live Streaming

Although live streaming did not make it into our top 5 concerns, the school feels that it is important to raise it with out parents. With more children aspiring to become YouTubers and the growth of live streaming on social networks, it's now essential to get to grips with the phenomenon of children broadcasting themselves online.

Tik Tok, Live Me and Periscope are all popular live streaming apps.

If you would like to find out more about live streaming, please visit

https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/parents-guide-to-live-streaming-and-vlogging/