

E-safety Newsletter

Summer 2024

Edition 5

Do you know the latest statistics for children being exploited online?

What are the latest online developments to be aware of?

Do your children speak to you if they are worried about something online?



The 2 Johns – New Date!

Unfortunately, the 2 Johns were unable to come into school on the original date planned earlier this term. We have a new date for this now and they will still be coming in to work with the KS2 children, staff and the parent workshop! This will now happen on **Monday 21st October 7pm to 8:30pm.**

No matter what age your child is or how much you feel they use the online world, they will give practical advice as to how to help to keep your child safe in the online world in a non-threatening or judgemental way.

Palworld

You may or may not yet have come across the game Palworld. It currently has sold over 6 million copies and has up to 2 million people playing online at any one time. It has 'cute and cuddly' graphics, but themes in it are more mature than this seems on the outside. This is why it has a PEGI rating of **12**! The game has been described as 'Pokemon with guns' showing that violence is present within the game. The game also can be played with others online; this clearly brings with it the dangers that any online games can bring of strangers gaming alongside strangers. As with any online gaming, it is much safer for children to game with people who they know. If they do game with strangers, it is essential that they are aware that they may not be who they say they are and that alarm bells should be ringing if anyone tries to get them to chat on a different platform to the public game forum. I have placed a more detailed guide on the e-safety section of the school website, which can be accessed from the link below:

<https://www.bentfieldprimaryschool.co.uk/e-safety-2/>

OFCOM Online Survey

OFCOM produced a survey of children's online use and behaviour in April, which has some very interesting insights in it. Particularly stark is the rise in online use of 5-7 year-olds, a group where it can be very easy to think there are few dangers in using the online world, but that is not necessarily the case! Click the link below to see the full report:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2024/a-window-into-young-childrens-online-worlds>

Influencers

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can prevent certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help to ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy.

The range of influences online is extremely wide-ranging. Children could be influenced to buy certain products, take on dangerous dares, carry out 'pranks', spend money on in-game purchase and much more. The best guidance is to talk to your children about what they are watching and seeing online to keep abreast of what influences they may be seeing and having open discussions about the merits of what they may be influenced to do.

Headteacher: Mr David Rogers

Rainsford Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex CM24 8DX

Tel: 01279 813626

email: admin@bentfield.essex.sch.uk