



02.03.2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may have been aware, earlier this month was Safer Internet Day. The school celebrated this day and the children took part in a range of activities to promote safe and respectful use of technology.

We are writing to ask you to support us in keeping your children safe online. With that in mind, we would ask you to please:

- Check your children's devices regularly, asking them which apps and websites they are using, what the apps/websites do and who they may be in contact with.
- Encourage your children to use technology where you can see or hear what they are doing. Many issues arise when young people use technology where it cannot be seen.
- Check the age ratings for apps. Most social media apps have a minimum age of 13. For children younger than this, content may not be suitable. Many apps/platforms also offer the ability to contact or be contacted by other users, some of whom may be a lot older than your children or who may not have your children's best interests at heart.
- Make yourself aware of any privacy or safety settings within the apps/platforms/broadband that your children use. Most apps have some way of restricting content or contacts which may not be suitable.
 - <https://protectyoungeyes.com/apps/>
 - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>
 - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>
- Discuss safe use with your children. There are many websites which can be used to support you in doing this, some of which are available on our website here <https://www.rakegateprimary.co.uk/esafety>
- Take some time to research the apps and platforms which young people might be using. The Net-Aware website is really useful in explaining how many apps work and what the potential risks are.
- Model safe and responsible use yourself.

There are also ways in which you can restrict and monitor the use of your child's device.

Apple

- Settings on your own or your child's device - <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>
- Using Family Sharing <https://www.apple.com/uk/family-sharing/>

Android

- Settings on your own or your child's device - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/android-smartphone/>
- Using Google Family Link - https://families.google.com/intl/en_uk/familylink/

We hope you find this useful. Technology can be fantastic, but it is important that you know how to support and protect your children so that they enjoy using it safely. Please remember that if you have any concerns or questions, you are welcome to contact the school for advice.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Horton
Headteacher

