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The Federation of: Orchard Primary School · Southwold Primary School · Hoxton Garden Primary School

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER
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DIGITAL LEADERS FIRST MEETING

Digital Leaders have now started in their roles. They have had training to support them in knowing how they can have impact by learning about online safety, safe use of equipment and how to ask for help.
This year they will focus on promoting online safety messages by creating an online safety tips video which will be displayed on our websites and social media.
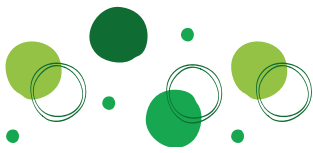

MICRO:BITS PROJECT

Digital Leaders have been busy getting to grips with 'micro:bits', which are pocket-sized computers that can be used to teach coding to primary school children. It is an interactive and programmable device that consists of various input-output features such as LED light displays, sensors, buttons, etc. Over the next few weeks, they will be learning how to code their micro:bits to perform a range of functions such as creating a fitness device, a soil moisture sensor, a game, or a nightlight.

BACK TO SCHOOL PHOTOS & VIDEOS

With children now into a new academic year, and for some, starting school for the first time, it is likely that parents will be eager to capture those memorable back to school moments of your children through photos and videos. However, it is important to prioritise our children's safety in this digital age. When sharing such photos, always consider the following precautions:

- Ensure that you avoid including any sensitive information such as school names, addresses, or other location details in the images or captions.
- Use privacy settings on social media platforms to control who can see your posts and limit the sharing of such content to a select, trusted audience.
- Always ask for your child's consent before sharing their images and videos online and respect their preferences.
- Regularly educate your child about online privacy and the potential risks of oversharing.
- If there are any other children in the pictures and videos, do you have permission from their parent / carer to share them?

LIVE STREAMING GUIDANCE

Live streaming has become a popular form of online entertainment, and it is essential to guide our children on how to use it safely.

Safety tips for parents / carers:

1. Choose Age-Appropriate Content: Ensure that your child watches live streams suitable for their age. Some platforms offer parental controls to filter content and maintain a safe viewing experience.
2. Set Time Limits: Encourage moderation by setting time limits for live streaming. Too much screen time can be harmful to a child's development, so balance is crucial.
3. Privacy Awareness: Teach your child not to share personal information, such as their full name, location, school, or phone number, while watching or participating in live streams. Emphasise the importance of online privacy.
4. Supervise Their Activity: Consider watching live streams together. This allows you to monitor the content and address any concerns or questions your child may have.
5. Report Inappropriate Content: Instruct your child on how to report any inappropriate or harmful content they encounter. Many streaming platforms have reporting tools to help maintain a safe environment.
6. Educate on Cyberbullying: Explain what cyberbullying is and how to handle it if they ever experience or witness it during live streams. Encourage them to speak to you or a trusted adult if they are ever in such a situation.
7. Be a Role Model: Children learn by example, so set a positive example of responsible online behaviour in your own online activities.

Safety tips for children:

1. Ask for Permission: Always check with an adult before watching or participating in a live stream. They can help you choose appropriate content.
2. Do not Share Personal Info: Never share your real name, location, school, or phone number online. Protect your privacy.
3. Be Kind: Treat others with respect and kindness in the chat. If someone is being mean or hurtful, ignore them or report them.
4. Time Management: Limit your screen time. It is essential to balance online activities with outdoor play, homework, and family time.
5. Tell an Adult: If you ever feel uncomfortable or come across something that makes you upset, always tell a trusted adult, like your parents or a teacher.
6. No Pressure to Share: Remember, you do not have to share personal details about yourself if you do not want to. You are in control.
7. Have Fun Safely: Enjoy the live streams, but make sure you have fun while staying safe.

GAMING PLATFORM CHAT FEATURES

Popular gaming sites with chat features include Roblox, Minecraft, Fortnite, and Discord. Each platform has its own set of safety measures and community guidelines. It is essential for parents to familiarise themselves with these safety measures and guidelines so that you can discuss this with your child.