

# GREAT BRADFORDS JUNIOR SCHOOL

## INTERNET SAFETY NEWSLETTER

February/March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

There have been several communications recently concerning issues and concerns on the internet, which could involve our children. For this reason I would urge you all to read this and also to refer to our internet safety page on our website for further information.

In school, the children access the internet under very tight restrictions put in place by Essex County Council. However, this is not infallible and just occasionally something inappropriate filters through. As we are in school though it is very quick and easy for us to deal with anything like this.

Most of the internet usage takes place outside school and, therefore, we teach the children how to keep themselves safe on the internet when using smart phones, tablets, laptops, computers, internet-facilitated televisions or games consoles. You will never know everything your children are accessing on the internet but you can know that they know how to protect themselves using our simple steps below. Unfortunately, the fact of the matter is: if a child gets drawn into a situation, they will have usually responded to something in the first place, so we have to be constantly on our guard all the time.

The teachers are also leading classroom assemblies today to refresh the children's memories about these issues and how to keep themselves safe. We will not be talking about specific scares unless they are raised by the children themselves (because we find that drives many children to go out and look for them and also increase the scaremongering) but we will be talking generalities.

Best wishes,

Fiona Dorey  
Headteacher

### What is social media?

Social media is not just Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. So don't think your child is safe if they don't use these apps. Social media is any portal that allows one person to communicate with another via the internet. This makes children vulnerable when they are using very popular gaming apps and there are reports of children being approached through **Minecraft, Roblox, Live-ly**. Another common access point is through **You-Tube**. When talking to children it is obvious that many do not watch regular television programmes now but spend significant amounts of time watching You-Tube clips. There is a children's version of You-Tube but even this can be manipulated as found recently within popular TV clips like **Peppa Pig**. Then there are communication channels like Messenger and WhatsApp, which are used widely by our children.

The list is endless and I would not be able to include them all.

***If you are on the internet, you are probably using social media whether you realise it or not.***

## **Being SMART on the internet**

This is the acronym we use to teach children how to keep themselves safe on the internet.

### **S: SAFE**

Be careful not to give out personal information when chatting or posting online. This includes email address, phone number, passwords or even something as simple as a selfie in school uniform or in front of the school sign.

*Did you know we are the only Great Bradfords Junior School in the country? It isn't hard to find us!*

### **M: MEET**

Do not meet anyone you have communicated with online without your parents'/carers' permission and have them with you. Online friends are strangers if you have not met them face to face even if you have talked to them for a long time.

*If you haven't met them in real life, they are not a friend!*

### **A: ACCEPTING**

Accepting emails, messages, pictures or files or texts from someone you don't know or trust can lead to problems. They may contain viruses or trojans which can access all your information in your phone or computer or be really nasty messages.

### **R: RELIABLE**

Don't believe everything that is online. Someone online might lie about who they are, and information is not always true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows.

*Just because they have a picture of a child on their profile does not mean they are a child.*

### **T: TELL**

Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if ANYTHING feels wrong or worries you or makes you feel uncomfortable.

## **Where to get help, guidance and games for children to play to learn:**

You can download PDF posters with good guidance from the National Online Safety website on a wide range of subjects such as the latest on 'momo' and what you need to know about playing 'Fortnite' snapchat, Roblox and You Tube . There are at least 30 guides to access.

Follow this link: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>

ThinkUKnow is a brilliant website for parents and children alike: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

They have an interactive game called Band Runner which teaches children everything they need to know.

Follow the 2Johns on Facebook: EST E-Safety Training. These two ex policemen are full of sensible advice and keep up with the latest information.