Online Safety Newsletter
February 2023

'Want to talk about it?' was this year's Internet Safer Day theme, encouraging pupils to kickstart conventions and share their opinions and ideas. It allowed time for discussions to tackle online issues and offer support and guidance from peers and teachers. Parents can support their child to establish a safe and supportive environment where the young person feels able to share their thoughts and ask questions.

Online safety is a huge topic and there are free resources available to help support parents and carers in kick starting those conversations.

For more information please visit; https://www.childnet.com/resources.

Google Family Link

Google Family Link is one of the best child safety apps on Android and iOS devices. Google's free tool lets parents and carers control a child's online usage. It allows adults to block and install apps, manage in-app purchase permissions, hide apps, and set various limits on the device.

AGE RATING 16+

Whatsapp is a popular free messaging app which allows users to send messages, voice notes, photos and videos. One of the key features of WhatsApp is the group chat function where everyone in the chat is able to see the messages. This means someone who has been previously blocked may be able to still contact users. Parents are instead encouraged to monitor who has been added into a group by changing it to 'my contacts only'.

Users are able to share location, however talking to a child about when that would be appropriate, and also the potential dangers of sharing their location, is necessary.

Users are able to update privacy settings such as who can see their profile photo or who can see when they are online by selecting either; everyone, my contacts, or nobody.

Sending nasty messages or sharing images of people without their permission are instances of online bullying. It is important to have regular conversations about online life and understand they have trusted adults at home or at school to talk to if they feel like they are being bullied. Users are told to block and leave the chat if they see something they do not like. They are also encouraged to discuss it with their parents and carers.

For more information please visit.
https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/bullying/cyberbullying/what-to-do-if-you-re-being-bullied-on-a-social-network