Online Safety Newsletter
October 2023

With the excitement of the new school year, many parents and carers share photos of their children online without thinking about the risks. Posting your child's photo online could mean that followers could be exposed to key information. Before you post a picture please ensure;

- Their Osidge school logo/ name is not recognisable.
- Never include your child's full name.
- Are there any other children in the photo and do you have permission from their parents or carers to upload it?

It is vital that parents ensure that the appropriate privacy settings are on. For more information please visit. https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Sharing-pictures-of-your-children/

Mental Health Day

This month saw *World Mental Health Day*, which featured advice on which apps can be used to improve children's learning and wellbeing to help them get the best experience out of the online world.	Me: A Kid's Diary Age rating 8+ This app encourages users to build on their self-awareness, self-confidence, empathy and kindness. It allows users to documents their words through animations, recording and photos

Threads

AGE RATING 13+

Threads was launched by the creators of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp in July and has a similar concept as Twitter. Users can share text posts with photos and videos in response to create a thread. Users must be aged 13 and over and have an Instagram account.

Users aged 13 -17 will automatically have their accounts set to private when they join. They will then have the option to filter out words which may be offensive. Users are able to unfollow, block and report a profile. Any account which has been blocked from their instrangam will automatically be blocked on Threads as well.

Functions from Threads are still being developed and currently users are unable to private message each other.

Parents and carers are encouraged to talk to their child and manage their profile to ensure content is appropriate. Ensuring the child is aware of how to block and report inappropriate behaviour they may come across. The user should be made aware of their privacy and safety settings and ensure they know that they can always speak to a trusted adult.

For more information please visit;
https://www.childnet.com/blog/instagram-threads-a-guide-for-young-people-and-parents/