Reedley Primary School
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www.reedley.lancs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bell

Online Safety Newsletter – February 2025

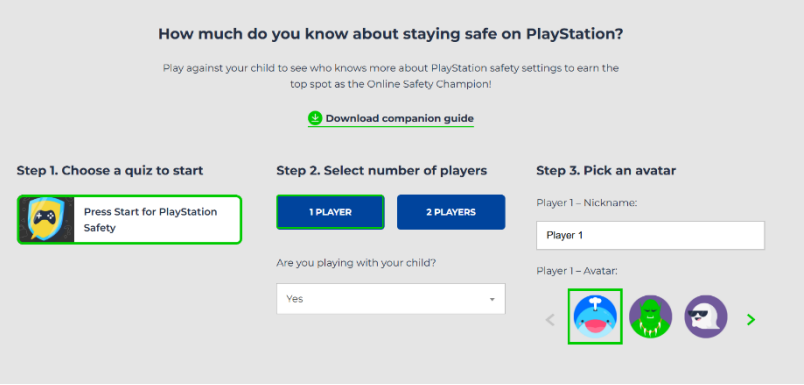
The online world can be a fantastic resource for children but it also poses a threat to their safety if not monitored and used appropriately.

This Online Safety Newsletter will give you tips and ideas for keeping your child safe in the online world.

Internet Matters.org

Internet Matters is a non-for profit organisation. Launched by the United Kingdom's largest internet service providers BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media, the organisation offers child internet safety advice to parents, carers and professionals https://www.internetmatters.org/

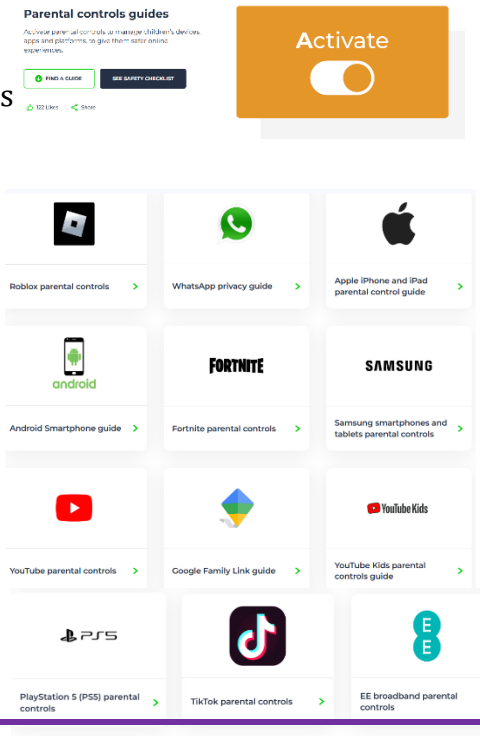
This article may be of use to parents https://www.internetmatters.org/press-start-for-playstation-safety/
It is an interactive quiz that you can play with your child about keeping safe whilst gaming.



Parental Controls

This article gives you a step-by-step guide to set parental controls on a range of devices and software such as TikTok, YouTube and Roblox.

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/



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Whatsapp

Many of our children tell us that they use messaging or chat facilities to communicate with others out of school. At the bottom of this newsletter is some information about Whatsapp. Whatsapp has an age restriction of 13 years old. Many children ignore this and sign up for Whatsapp when they are younger but there are many risks involved with doing this.

Parents/carers can make use of monitoring software, such as Qustodio, to monitor what children are using devices for. You can sign up for this here. Qustodio allows you to monitor devices in your home and block features. You can upgrade to include more devices and features, but the free version has many useful features.
https://www.qustodio.com/en/free-sign-up/

Here are some of the key messages from the poster below about Whatsapp.

Advice for Parents/Carers about Whatsapp

Contact from Strangers
To start a chat onWhatsapp, someone only needs the mobile number that they want to message. If a child gives their number out to someone, then that person can message them. They could also be added to a group chat which may contain people they don't know.

Adjust settings
There is a live location facility but be mindful that this means other people can track where your child's phone is, leading them to their home address. If they use this feature, they should use it for as long as they need and then turn it off.

Chat lock and Secret Codes
Chats can be kept in a 'locked chats' folder, often with a secret code. This creates the potential for children to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

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