

be curious, be resilient,
be compassionate



Capenhurst C.E. (Cont) Primary School
Capenhurst Lane
Capenhurst
Chester CH1 6HE Tel: 0151 832 3750

Head Teacher: Mrs C Green
Administration: Mrs C Auld

email: head@capenhurstcep.cheshire.sch.uk
email: admin@capenhurstcep.cheshire.sch.uk
Website: www.capenhurstcep.cheshire.sch.uk

6th December 2021

Dear families,

Many children will receive devices such as tablets, phones, games consoles etc. as presents this year and this letter is to help you and your family be alert to some things you should consider about the safe use of them. Many children already have access to such devices, but how many of us can honestly say that we know everything our child is accessing, sharing and saying whilst using them?

Children are being encouraged by app and social media developers and others to access their range of apps, games and social media platforms. Most of these have age limits but it is rare that these are monitored or enforced by the developer/provider. More and more interactions are starting in the virtual world and we would be foolish to ignore this or try to turn back the clock on this development. This means that it is even more important that families are open about keeping safe online.

Here are some points to consider which are taken from the parent section of the website -
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

- **Explore together:** Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen and show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.
- **Initiate (and continue) conversations about online safety:** Ask them if anything ever bothers or worries them while they're online. You could use examples of events from the animations and ask if they've experienced anything similar. Reinforce the key message: if anything happens online which makes them feel worried, scared or sad, the best thing to do is talk to you or another adult who they trust.
- **Help your child identify adults who can help:** Help your child identify trusted adults from different areas of their life such as at home or at school.
- **Be non-judgemental:** Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm and loving support.
- **Supervise your child while they're online:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an appropriate adult is able to supervise. It is not safe for 4-7 year olds to access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in a bedroom or bathroom.
- **Talk to your child about how their online actions can affect others:** If your child is engaging with others online remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo or video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.
- **SafeSearch:** The use of 'SafeSearch' is highly recommended for use with young children. Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which will allow you to limit the content your child is exposed to



This letter has been distributed for the sole purpose of the information contained within it. It is the responsibility of the holder to protect and dispose of this information. If a reply slip is attached it will be disposed of sensitively by the School following the trip or event unless you are otherwise notified.

whilst online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage (often shaped like a small cog).

- **Parental controls:** Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled device in your home. You can learn more by reading their article on [using parental controls](#).

Do remember that parental controls are there to help you – they are not guaranteed to work – they are not an online babysitter. There is no substitute for knowing and watching what your child is doing online.

I trust that you find the information in this letter useful. If it raises any questions, please access the resources on the website - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/> or email school using contact@capenhurstcep.cheshire.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Claire Green
Headteacher