

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Fairlands E-Safety News

The E-Safety newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

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www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome to our second edition of our termly e-safety newsletter. Don't forget to check here each term for all of the latest e-safety guidance to help keep your child stay safe online. If you have any questions or suggestions of things you would like advice on please feel free to contact me via e-mail. My e-mail address is emily.thompson@fairlands.herts.sch.uk.

Emily Thompson
Senior Teacher – New Technologies

AGE RATINGS OF GAMES

Just like films, many computer and console games come with a PEGI age rating (Pan European Game Information). Please be aware of the age ratings on the games that you allow your children to play. We have had many reports of children playing games with an age rating of 18, which makes the content highly inappropriate for them.

Even with age ratings attached, parents/carers may want to know more about a game that their child wants to play. The Internet Movie Database (www.imdb.com) is a huge website with information about movies. It also contains information about many games, including a parent's guide which details some of the content which may be of concern. This will help you, as a parent/carer, to make an informed decision about whether or not a game is appropriate before allowing your child to play.

ONLINE GAMES

Many parents/carers are not aware of the extent to which online games allow children to interact with others.

Online games often enable users to connect with other players. While it may appear that children are simply playing a game, this contact can allow children to chat and share information without your knowledge.

It is important that you, as parents and carers, are aware of any games that your children may be playing online, alongside any online communities they have joined, to familiarise yourself with the kind of interactions that these allow. Some online communities and gaming sites aimed at children have special sections for parents to help make you aware of these features. Please use these sections.

STOP CYBER BULLYING DAY

On the 20th June 2014, the Cybersmile Foundation will be celebrating its 2nd year of Stop Cyberbullying Day. This is an annual event in aid of the prevention of cyber bullying. The Cybersmile Foundation is the UK's first charity dedicated to cyberbullying. It is committed to offering support to those affected by cyberbullying and their families, alongside educating young people on the dangers of the internet and how to interact in a considerate way online.

For more info see: www.cybersmile.org

CEOP

CEOP have a great bank of resources on their website for both parents and carers and children. The site is split into sections according to age groups of children. There is also a separate section for adults.

Check it out here: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

CURRENT NEW TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH

Ofcom carried out some research titled 'Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes'. There was further research carried out by EU Kids Online (2013). The research contained some interesting statistics:

82% 5-7 year olds have regular access to the internet.

91% 5-15 year olds have access to the internet at home through a PC, laptop or notebook.

58% 8-11 year olds play a computer or video game every single day.

5-16 year olds spend **6.2-10.7 hours per week** gaming.

25% boys play against people they do not know.

62% 12-15 year olds have a smart phone.

19% 12-15 year olds have made a video and uploaded it.

68% 12-15 year olds have a profile on a social networking site.

22% have a profile on a social networking site meant for 13 or over (when they are younger than 13).

50% teenagers (13-19) have given out personal information online.

25% 9-16 year olds have seen sexual images in the last 12 months either online or offline.

These statistics show the reasons why it is essential to monitor your children's use of new technologies. It is also important to discuss their online use with them and ensure they know what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable when they are online.

ZIP IT APP

Childline completed a survey in 2013. The survey was carried out with 13-18 year olds and created the following statistics:

60% had been asked for a sexual picture or video of themselves.

40% had created a sexual picture or video of themselves.

25% had sent a sexual picture or video of themselves.

In response to this pressure on young people to share sexual images, Childline have produced a free App called Ziplt. This contains a 'flirting guide' and a selection of humorous images that can be sent in response to a request for an image or video. Whilst I recognise this may target older children I know children do have siblings and this may be of interest to parents/carers.

This E-Safety Newsletter will now be published termly. If there is any advice you would like to see in the next newsletter please contact me at emily.thompson@fairlands.herts.sch.uk