Internet Safety Newsletter
Issue 8 November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Online gaming is very popular with children and young people. Most games now allow users to join leader boards, group games or chat to others. Children can access these games on consoles, such as Playstation and Xbox, on phones and on tablets. It is important that your child knows how to use these games safely. Below are some tips for keeping your child safe when playing online games.

Miss Breckon

Internet safety advice can be directly applied to online gaming.

1. Games now have a high quality of graphics so it is important that you check the age of the game your child is playing. Games with an age restriction might contain violence or sexually-explicit content. If you are unsure about a game, play it before your child or read game reviews.

2. Some games may offer children the chance to chat with other players by voice and text. Ask them who they are playing with and find out if they are talking to other players. If chat is available, look at the type of language that is used by other players

3. Explain to your child that accepting gaming requests, direct messages or clicking on links from people they don't know can lead to problems. They could contain viruses, inappropriate content or nasty messages.

4. Lots of games have safety or privacy features to keep young gamers safe which you can set based on your child's age and maturity. These settings may limit who players can chat with or what they can say. These features may also control the game content they can play

For more information, read- http://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Online-gaming-an-introduction-for-parents-and-carers-2017.pdf

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Reminder- Instagram has a recommended age of 13 and will delete accounts of users under this age if they are notified. Some content on Instagram is inappropriate for children. Please monitor your child's use closely.

Twitter- Follow us on Twiiter @greengatespri. We tweet useful links from the NSPCC and UK Safer Internet. Alternatively, follow NSPCC yourself on @NSPCC

Top Tips

• **Talk to your child about what they're using the internet for**.

Discuss what sites your children like to use and why, this will mean your children will be more likely to share any problems they encounter on the internet.

• **Encourage your child to explore online.**
The internet has various age appropriate sites for your child to use. Encourage them to use sites which are fun and educational. They can share their new knowledge with you and their class.

• **Keep track of your child's development online.**
Your child will learn new skills online, allowing them to access different sites. Make sure you are aware of their new understanding.

• **Set boundaries for your child when they are using the internet.**

Think about what they see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online.

• **Ensure that your child uses the internet in a family space.**
It is important that you can see the sites that your child is using and if anything inappropriate appears on their screen.

• **Use parental controls on devices that have internet access.**
Parental controls help you to set boundaries when your child is online. They do not solve internet safety issues, but they are a good place to start.

Ofsted
...a good school

Enhanced
Healthy School

The Landmark
TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

SCHOOL
GAMES
BRONZE
2014/15

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Green Gates Primary School, Keilder Close, Redcar, TS10 4HS
Tel: 01642 485463   Fax: 01642 483557   Email: office@ggates.rac.sch.uk   www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/greengates
Headteacher - Mr D A Hodgson