Welcome to the December 2022 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Remember—Set up devices!

Christmas is just around the corner! Will you be ready?
If you are buying your child a:
- SMART device (TV, Speaker)
- new mobile phone
- games console
- tablet PC

Consider the following tips:
- Make sure the device is working correctly
- Charge it up
- Set up the device and try it before you wrap it up
- Check the parental controls
- Check the safety settings
- Ensure filtering is applied to your home's Wi-Fi

Consider and review advice on the following websites:
Internet Matters Parental controls Step by step guides for Broadband, Smartphones, Social Media, Games Consoles
Parentzone Setting up new technology Access Parentzone's library of resources here
Childnet Advice on Screen Time Find out what the 'experts' say and what 'parents' say
UK Safer Internet Centre's Parent Guide Advice on using:
SMART speakers safely
SMART TVs includes how to use safely and parental controls
Games Consoles includes top tips to stay safe
NSPCC Help children to stay safe on CHAT Apps including: WhatsApp; KiK; Telegram; Omegle; Facebook Messenger
Find out about:
Gaming Chats; Chat Rooms; Live Streaming and Video Apps

We've also included a link to Netflix's
Help Centre for setting up Parental Controls
REMEMBER BEFORE YOU WRAP IT—SET IT UP!

Don't forget to talk to your child about Online Safety

Be aware of key issues!
How?
Visit the following websites to find out:
Parentzone – Guides for parents includes social media, Fortnite, Peer pressure, PEGI Ratings, Disney+, Help and Support, Loot Boxes and much more
CommonSense Media – Age based media reviews for families, including Games, Apps, Films and TV, books.
ThinkUKnow - Advice on keeping your under 5 safe
Learn about Jessie & Friends—advice for 4-7 year olds.
Watch the films for 8-10 year olds
Review the advice for 11-18 year olds
Get Safe Online advice on how to protect yourself, mobiles computers, tablets against fraud, identity theft, SCAMS ++.

HELP IN THE HOLIDAYS!

Don't forget! advice is just a phone call away from the NSPCC helpline **0808 800 5002**
Childline **0800 1111** email: **childline.org.uk**
Websites to check:
Childnet's Parent and Carer's Toolkit
ThinkUKnow's advice for Parents and Carer's

Reminder—Be a good digital parent

- Keep passwords safe and **do not** share them
- Schedule notifications to turn off for certain times of the day
- Talk about things you read online with your children
- Think about what **you** are sharing online
- Give practical tips for dealing with unwanted content or contact
- Show your child how to take screen shots
- Reassure your child that they can talk to you or another trusted adult to ask for help

Need help?
Visit the following websites for more guidance*:*
Vodafone's Digital Parenting Helping your family live a happy and safe digital life
Childnet's Parent and Carers Toolkit Three resources offering practical tips on keeping your child safe online
UK Safer Internets Centre's Advice on online issues includes guidance on how to report, when to report and where to report.

Have you heard of the Metaverse?

The *metaverse* allows interaction in a 3D environment using virtual reality headsets or augmented reality glasses, providing the capability to see what it would be like to live in imagined worlds in the same way we live in the real world.
Tech companies exploring the *metaverse* include:

- Facebook
- Microsoft
- Roblox

What should you be aware of?
Many companies hope the metaverse will engage younger audiences.
Consider the potential risks:
- How will it impact on younger audiences?
- Younger audiences could be lured into spending large sums of money
- Increased opportunity for bullying

Parentzone's new guide, explores what the *metaverse* might be like, its possibilities, uses and potential risks.

The Internet of Things

Did you know many devices now connect to the Internet?
- Internet connected devices can send and receive data
- respond to voice commands and be controlled remotely using a smartphone app.

Examples of internet connected devices include:
- Doorbells, CCTV
- Toys, robots, drones and much more

If not set up properly, the risks include:
- Developers or hackers may be connected to your device without your knowledge
- Baby monitors, children's tablets, drone toys, can be hacked and used by people outside of your home.

Find out how to keep you and your family safe and visit the
NSPCC's website

Have a happy safe Christmas!

SCOMIS
Your ICT Partner