

Newton Hill Community School E-Safeguarding Newsletter Term 2

Internet Safety Day

Tuesday 6th February, 2024

Safer Internet Day takes place in February of each year to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, and especially for children and young people. For more information, please visit the website below.

<https://saferinternetday.org/>



Sky Broadband Shield

Do you have Sky Broadband?

Sky offer a set of free tools to all customers to help make the internet a safer place for your family, for example safe search. You can find out more about the setting available and how to set it up here:

<https://www.sky.com/help/articles/sky-broadband-shield-start>

Is your child playing Gacha life?

Gacha Life is rated as 9+ on the App Store and for 'Everyone' on the Google Play Store. Players can dress up characters and add props (including weapons) and create scenes with their characters as well as play games. The app does allow in-app purchases ranging from £1.70 to £17.99 and does include adverts. This article from Internet Matters provides further information and discusses in detail what you need to be aware of:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety->



Fall Guys

Fall Guys is a free, online multiplayer game in which players team up to take on obstacle courses and puzzles to try and be the last player standing. Fall Guys is available on multiple platforms.

Whilst this game has a PEGI rating of 3 (suitable for all ages), you need to be aware that up to sixty people will be playing in one game at the same time and it does have the option of **voice chat** and **in-game purchases**. Voice chat is off by default and is not needed to play the game. An Epic Games account is required to play Fall Guys, which does include parental controls. You can find out more here: <https://www.epicgames.com/site/en-US/parental-controls>

Instagram: New Features

You must be at least 13 years old to have an Instagram account.

Instagram have introduced several new features, including 'Quiet mode,' how to hide content as well as additional tools to help your child.

Quiet mode

This gives users the ability to put their account in quiet mode, so you do not receive notifications and if you receive a DM, the sender receives an auto reply. This mode will help provide less distraction whilst studying and at night time.

Recommendations

You can now hide content in Explore that you do not wish to see/are not interested in. Instagram will use this information to avoid showing you that type of content in other areas where content is recommended as well.

Hidden words

You can already hide comments and DMs containing specific words, but this feature has now been expanded to recommended posts. If you add a word, emoji or hashtag that you want to avoid to your hidden words (in privacy settings) then Instagram will try to no longer recommend content with those words in the caption/ hashtag.

Updated Parental Supervision Tools

You can see your child's Instagram settings (if you have set up a supervised account), including their privacy and account settings and accounts your child has blocked. If your child updates a setting, then you will receive a notification to inform you.

Find out more

You can read more about the new features here: <https://about.fb.com/news/>