Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you to share some information from our partners in the local area.

Following the national school closures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent return to school over the last few months, colleagues in our partner services have seen a rise in reports of online bullying and incidents occurring over social media.

Through PSHE lessons, and assemblies, we will endeavor to discuss these issues with the children and raise their awareness to the concerns and dangers of social media use in an age appropriate way.
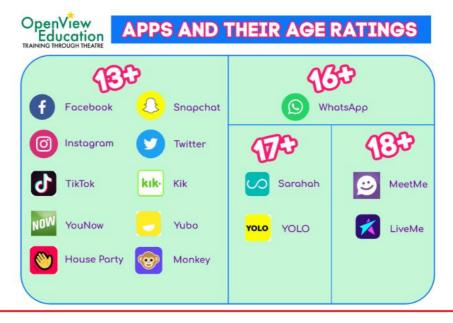
However, we also ask that as parents/carers you are aware of these issues, the age restrictions on certain social media and apps and are alert to what your children are engaging in online.

Please find enclosed with this letter, a few leaflets with information regarding age restrictions on social media/apps and also a document from Staffordshire Police with further information about some apps that are popular with students as well as some further sources of support and information. These documents can also be accessed on our school website at https://shobnallprimaryschool.co.uk/stay-safe-online/.
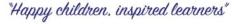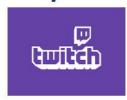
Many thanks and kind regards,

Mr D Adams
Head Teacher

OpenView Education — TRAINING THROUGH THEATRE

APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS

13+
- Facebook
- Snapchat
- Instagram
- Twitter
- TikTok
- Kik
- YouNow
- Yubo
- House Party
- Monkey

16+
- WhatsApp

17+
- Sarahah
- YOLO

18+
- MeetMe
- LiveMe

WAS - promoting emotional wellbeing and positive mental health
in partnership with ncb National Children's Bureau
dyslexia friendly BDA - QUALITY
all together GOLD SCHOOL 2021
Ofsted Outstanding Provider

The following are some of the most popular Games & Apps currently being used by children and Online Safety Resources

Know your Games

Twitch is a live streaming site which lets gamers share live gameplay for others to watch and comment on.

Roblox is an online game and app which allows creation of own games, play games others have made or chat to other players.

There are parental controls that allow for a selection of chat options and a PIN to allow age appropriate games to be played.

Among Us is popular with primary school children.

Players can join a game with their friends and the game randomly selects one of the players to be an 'imposter' who the other players aim to defeat.

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Know your Apps

omegle
Talk to strangers!

TikTok is a global video community where users create, share and discover short video clips.

By default user accounts are automatically set to public when an account is created. This means anyone in the world can see what a user has posted on their account and can make contact with them.

Omegle – Talk to strangers! *"The Internet is full of cool people; Omegle lets you meet them."* Omegle is a website which is specifically designed to allow users to talk to strangers.

It works by randomly matching users to talk one-to-one using either text or video. It is free and anonymous to use, with no account registration or age verification.
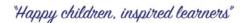
Snapchat is a picture and video sharing app.

Users can specify how long these posts stay on for before they disappear. However this does not mean images are permanently deleted as screen shots can be taken.

'Geofilters' can also be used which can show where a person is.

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What to Do

Make an agreement about use & time online and stick to it. Talk about:

➢ Some people may pretend to be someone else.

➢ The risks of giving personal data to anyone online (for example address, photo, school, bank details).

➢ The danger of meeting up with someone who they met online in the real world.

➢ Always telling a trusted adult if they are planning to do this and how to be safe.

➢ Share the same curiosity for online friends as you would for offline friends.

Information & Support Resources

Net Aware
NSPCC's Net Aware provides safety advise on all the most popular apps and games
https://www.net-aware.org.uk/

UK Safer Internet Centre
UK Safer Internet Centre provides advise and resource to stay safe online
https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

THINK U KNOW
Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Pace Parents against child exploitation
Support for parents and carers of children who have been or are at risk of exploitation

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Reporting

If you are at all concerned by the way someone is behaving towards a child online, it is important to report it straight away.

In an emergency telephone: 999
For a non-emergency telephone: 101

CLICK CEOP Internet Safety
Reports can be made to the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) who are part of the National Crime Agency.

IWF Internet Watch Foundation
Child sexual abuse content found online should be reported to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF).

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