Parayhouse School

Online Safety Newsletter: Autumn term 1

PHS
LANGUAGE AND LEARNING FOR LIFE

Talking to your children

According to the latest research from Ofcom, nearly half of all 3-4 year olds have their own tablet (Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022) so it is never too early to start chatting to our children about how to stay safe online. But how can we do this?
Here are some of our suggestions:

Use books to spark conversations
Childnet have created a collection of five 'Digiduck' stories to help you educate your child about online safety. The stories are available here: https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/.
In addition, Childnet have created a learning-to-read book for children aged 4 and above titled **'On the internet.'** The book also includes puzzles to encourage conversations. The book can be downloaded here: https://www.childnet.com/resources/a-learning-to-read-book/

Watch Jessie & Friends together
ThinkuKnow have created three different animations for three age groups between 4 – 7 years. ThinkuKnow also provide some useful guidance and advice on what else you can do to keep your child safer online, such as setting up appropriate parental controls. You can find out more here: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends/
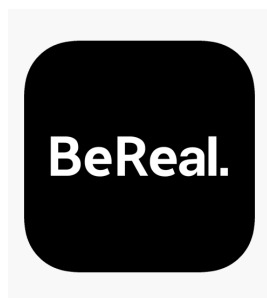
Anti-Bullying Week 2022

Monday 14th - Friday 18th November

We will be marking this day on the 11th November 2022.

The theme this year is Reach Out. The Anti Bullying Alliance have worked with Kidscape to develop resources to help you support your child: https://antibullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullyingweek/parents-and-carers

What is BeReal?

BeReal is a new social media app. It notifies you once a day to upload an image of what you are doing. Once you receive the notification, you have two mins to capture and share what you are doing at that moment. All your friends post at the exact same time. Once you have posted, you can then see what your friends have posted. If you don't post your BeReal, then you can't see your friend's BeReals from that day or access the discovery tab.

What age should I be?

You must be 13+ to use BeReal. BeReal is rated as 12+ by the App store and rated for Teens on Google Play. Users add their date of birth to register (no age verification takes place) although users do need to add a mobile number.

What else do I need to be aware of?

BeReal is private by default and only visible to your friends. However, it is possible to share with all users by selecting the public option. If selected, your BeReal will appear in the Discovery tab for all users to see and interact with. There is also an option to share your location. If you don't enable your location, then you can't see other user's locations. Chat to your child about location sharing as it is important that your child understands the risk of location sharing and when it may be appropriate to share. Discovery tab – this is the area where you can view all other BeReals that have been made public (if you have posted that day). There is an element of risk that your child may see an inappropriate image depending on what others have uploaded.

How to report:

You can report a BeReal or a user by clicking on the three dots (next to the BeReal or user) to report. You can then choose whether you think the BeReal is undesirable or if it is inappropriate. You can block users on Android but not on iOS (BeReal have said this functionality will be available soon). People you have accepted as 'friends' can be deleted at any time. If your child is using BeReal then talk to them about what they are sharing on BeReal and check that they know how to use the reporting tools available.

Further information: https://www.childnet.com/blog/bereal-a-guide-for-parents-and-carersabout-the-new-social-media-app

Roblox

Roblox have updated PEGI rating PEGI have announced a change to the age rating for Roblox.

PEGI used to rate Roblox as 7+, however because of the huge level of user generated content within Roblox, PEGI have changed the rating to a Parental Guidance label (icon shown below).

As a lot of the content is user generated, it may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. It is important to set up Parental controls appropriate to your child.

You can read more about this change here:

https://pegi.info/news/pegi-changes-rating-advice-

Helpful links for parents:

Parent INFO: Help and advice for families in a digital world. Parent Info is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP, providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations

Thinkyouknow Highly recommended is the Thinkyouknow website. This is an education initiative by CEOP - the UKs national law enforcement agency that focuses on tackling sexual abuse of children.

Google: Visit Google's Safety Centre to learn how to change Google's search settings to Safe Search filtering:http://www.google.co.uk/familysafety/tools.html