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Online safety at home:

parents and carers newsletter from CJS

Issue 2

Monday 26th April 2021

This is the second of a six part series of newsletters from CJS about keeping our children safe online and about encouraging them all to treat others with care and respect.

Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However, it's important we all consider how we can support children's online safety during post-lockdown, and in the event of further lockdowns. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer:

Chatting, being kind and making friends online

Primary-age children may not have previously had much experience with video chatting apps such as zoom, FaceTime and Skype, but may well be using them now for education or to keep in touch with family and friends.

To make sure your child has a positive experience video chatting online, read this [guide for parents and carers](#)

The internet has many positive opportunities for children to learn and play, but it can also be used in negative and unkind ways.

It's really important to speak to your child about being kind online, and how they can get help if they see or hear anything that makes them feel worried, scared or sad. Use these [conversation starters](#) to help your child understand the importance of being kind online.

The term 'online friend' can be used to describe people you only know through the internet, or those that you also know offline. Some children make friends online by meeting new people through online platforms such as gaming sites.

To help children have positive online friendships, read this [handy guide](#).

Children and Age-Restricted Social Media

Sadly, most of the difficulties our children experience are because they are using social media which was and is not designed for children of primary school age; they are not ready.

The children are still learning to socialise in the real world for which they have adults on hand to help when they fall out. Online, children are unsafe using age-restricted social media sites and they are not ready to manage the fall out.

WhatsApp have announced a change to their terms and conditions for users based in Europe. **Users will now need to be 16 to use WhatsApp.**

Nearly all other social media services require **users to be at least 13 years of age** to access and use their services. This includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Musical.ly and Skype.

Whilst there is no age restriction for watching videos on YouTube, **users need to be 13 or older** to have their own YouTube account (enabling them to subscribe to other channels, like videos, post comments, share their own content and flag inappropriate content).

In short, primary age pupils should not be using any age-restricted social media and certainly should not be in WhatsApp groups.