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| Bolney CEP School | Online Safety Newsletter– March 2024 | | |
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| Dear Families | | |
| As we eagerly anticipate the upcoming Easter holiday, we hope this newsletter finds you well and ready to embrace the joys of this spring season. While the weather may be unpredictable, let's keep our fingers crossed for some opportunities to enjoy the outdoors amidst the feasting of chocolate eggs and hot cross buns! | | |
| |  | | --- | | Latest advice, current news and where to get support With spending time with family upon us, we want to take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of responsible internet and technology use. As families gather, it's essential to continue having open and regular conversations about online safety and digital well-being. Whether it's setting boundaries for screen time or discussing the importance of privacy settings, let's work together to ensure a safe and enjoyable online experience for all. For more information about cyberbullying and how to support your child, please read the attached poster and the school website page named Online Safety. | |  | | Games, Apps or articles to discuss at home to help us stay safe online Have you heard of Palworld? Palworld draws similarities to other extremely popular franchises like Pokémon and Digimon. Although Palworld has a minimum age rating of 12, we recognise that children as young as 8 access these games. I know that the children, particularly in KS2, love Pokemon and Digimon so it will not be long, if not already, that our children are playing this game.  Palworld offers opportunities for children to engage in resource management, teamwork, and caretaking. By building bases, farming, and producing items alongside their Pals, players can learn about responsibility and collaboration in a virtual environment.  The game encourages players to prioritise the well-being of their Pals by meeting their needs and ensuring they are cared for. This fosters empathy and teaches children about the importance of nurturing relationships, even in a digital context. With base-building mechanics, children can unleash their creativity by designing and customising their own unique environments. This aspect of the game encourages imagination and problem-solving skills as they plan and construct their bases. The children love Minecraft for similar reasons.  Unlike traditional Pokémon games where creatures primarily battle, Palworld offers a more diverse range of activities for Pals, such as building, farming, and item production. This broader range of tasks encourages players to explore different gameplay strategies and roles for their virtual companions.  As we have mentioned with all games and internet use, it's essential for parents to monitor their children's gameplay and ensure they maintain a healthy balance between gaming and other activities. Additionally, parents should familiarise themselves with the game's mechanics and content to ensure it aligns with their values and expectations. | | For more information on anything we have mentioned on this newsletter, please take a look at these websites:  <https://www.internetmatters.org/>  <https://www.childnet.com/>  Staying safe online | Internet safety tips | Kids HelplineAs always, if you would like further support or have any questions, please contact me by email at: cjames@bolneyprimary.school, Mrs Clare James | | | | |
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|  | |  | Recommended read: A guide to keeping your child safe online | | | |
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