



## Bolney CEP School | Online Safety Newsletter– March 2021

### Dear Parents

It is lovely to have the children back in school, socialising with friends and learning face to face. Although the children will be using technology at home and in school in different ways, we still need to be aware of the current dangers and latest news around the use of the internet. However, as previously mentioned in our online newsletters, we should try to focus on positive and empowering online behaviours such as critical thinking, reporting concerns, blocking content or users and knowing where to get help.

### Latest advice, current news and where to get support



The Safer Internet Day theme this year on the 9<sup>th</sup> February was all about Fake news. Our last newsletter also provided links to the Internet Matters.Org website where you could find useful articles about how to spot fake news. This month we would like to highlight where and how to find up to date, real news, using child friendly sources. Parents can use these child friendly sources as a jumping-off point to discuss how news is reported and how to be a critical thinker. This skill of critical thinking will help in all aspects of school and home life and in their adult lives too. It is important to help our children understand how to identify legitimate news sources.

Here are just a couple that we would recommend for our age group of children:

- 1) Download the App 'News-O-Matic: Reading for Kids' (need to see the UK news section)
- 2) Fun Kids Digital Radio and Online: <https://www.funkidslive.com/tag/news/>



# Games and Apps to discuss at home to help us stay safe online



Common Sense says



age 13+ ★★★★★

Based on our expert review

Parents say

age 12+



Based on 861 reviews

Kids say

age 10+



Based on 1470 reviews

We are often hearing our children talk about playing the game Fortnite. This game has been rated 12+ by PEGI (Pan European Game Information). This game is one 'that puts 100 players on a battle field and makes them fight until the death'. It has been described as having 'gruesome content'. A poll hosted from This Morning asked if parents were worried about the effect the game Fortnite has on their children and 59% voted no as opposed to 41% who said yes. In addition, the game has also experienced problems with hacking, with gamers finding fraudsters have been able to make payments using their details.

Please can you check out this website using this link for a guide for parents about the game Fortnite:

<https://www.askaboutgames.com/parents-guide-to-fortnite-peg1-12>



Common Sense says



age 13+ ★★★★★

Vast video site entertains, educates; iffy stuff abounds.

<http://www.youtube.com/>

Parents say

age 12+



Based on 303 reviews

Kids say

age 10+



Based on 1333 reviews

Another App that we know our children love and use all the time is YouTube. As previously mentioned in our newsletters, YouTube is the most popular App and 49% of children would rather watch YouTube than TV. This is also rated 12+. However, see below the two links; one is to help you ensure your child is as safe as possible when using YouTube by reading and watching a video on the Common Sense Media website and the other is a link to YouTube Kids to set up a children's account.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/videos/5-ways-to-make-youtube-safer-for-kids>

<https://www.youtubekids.com/>



The West Sussex Staying Safe Online newsletter has previously promoted an event called An internet We Trust Webinar and due to increased demand and an overwhelming attendance, another date has been added. This event is composed of a 90 minute webinar aimed at parents and carers to explore the key factors to be aware of regarding online space and exploitation.

The workshop will help raise your understanding of how the online space can be exploited and discuss how online platforms are used to manipulate, coerce and radicalise vulnerable young people.

This takes place on Tuesday, 6 April, 2021, at 10:00am using this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/staying-safe-online-an-internet-we-trust-exploring-reliability-online-tickets-140845371297?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>



As always, if you would like further support or have any questions, please contact me by email at:

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