Welcome to the Clore Shalom online safety newsletter!

Online safety is a key part of education as we prepare children for increased digital independence in secondary school and when they become adults. Online safety education is only effective if school and parents work closely together. We will be sending parents this newsletter every term to share what we have been covering in school and to send information that we receive as to how we can all collaborate to keep our children safe.

What we've learnt this term about online safety

Year 1: how to log in safely and the importance of logging out

Year 2: letting a trusted adult know if you are not sure about something you see online

Year 3: how to be kind online, age limits and restrictions, awareness of fake profiles.

Year 4: using email safely – who to accept emails from

Year 5: keeping SMART online: Safe, not Meeting up, not Accepting emails from unknown senders, Reliable, and Tell if you are concerned.

Year 6: meaning of a digital footprint, the issue on online identities

Reporting Harmful content – everyone's responsibility

Did you know that you can report harmful online content via our school website? We have now added a reporting harmful content button and you can find it here.

Know when to report

If you or your child has seen something online that is illegal, upsetting or harmful, it is always best to report it. Illegal content includes sexual images of under 18s and unlawful terrorist content.

You can also report something that may be legal but is still considered harmful such as content that includes bullying, self harm or suicide, impersonation, online abuse, threats, violence, unwanted sexual advances or pornographic content across non-adult sites.

Report to the correct place

Depending on the content, reports needs to go to specific places for the correct support. Reporting child sexual abuse material goes to the Internet Watch Foundation. For terrorist content, visit ACT (Action Counters Terrorism). Many online platforms have reporting functions available to users. See https://reportharmfulcontent.com/report/ for specific guidelines on how to report harmful content across all well known apps and sites. Advice about reporting around specific harms can be found here.

Encourage reporting

Reporting is a practice that can work towards making the internet a safer place for all. Ignoring a piece of harmful online content can lead toward others experiencing harm.

 Gaming Tips for Parents of Neurodiverse children:

Internet Matters has published a helpful guide – focusing on online gaming safety tips for parents and carers of neurodivergent children. The simple 5-page guide covers research, examples of suitable games, some of the challenges parents face, and the key benefits.

The guide can be accessed here Guidance for parents of neurodivergent gamers | Internet Matters by Internet Matters - Flipsnack

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Online Safety education in school: what we've covered this term:

Online Safety assembly update:

We have talked in assembly this term about the power of the Internet.

TikTok – WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW:

No primary-age child should access Tiktok, but we are aware that some children do have access. Here are some key points to consider:

When you download the app, **users can see all the content without creating an account** although they are not able to post, like or share anything until they've set up an account on the app.

By default, all accounts are public so anyone on the app can see what your child shares. However, only approved followers can send them messages.

Users can like or react to a video, follow an account or send messages to each other, so there is the risk that **strangers will be able to directly contact children** on the app.

Children may be **tempted to take risks to get more of a following** or likes on a video so it's important to talk about what they share and with who.

All users under the age of 18 automatically have their accounts set to private, so that all videos can only be seen by the creator and no one else on the platform. With a private account, you can approve or deny users and limit incoming messages to followers only.

Please note that even with a private account, your child's profile photo, username, and bio are still visible to all users on the platform. You can manage who can comment, duet and direct message your child on the app.

What you can do to keep your child safe:

- Talk to them about cyber bullying
- Ensure the account is set to private
- Make sure your child is 'share aware' and knows who may see or share their content
- Be aware of explicit songs on the app
- Turn on the digital wellbeing settings
- Know how and when to report any issues

We hope that you have found the contents of this newsletter useful.

If you have anything you would like to add or any professional experience in this area that you would like to share with our community, please get in touch.