



Online Safety Newsletter October 2024

Sherwood Junior School Online Safety Newsletter

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Sherwood Junior School Digital Leaders



**KEEP
CALM
AND ASK A
DIGITAL
LEADER**

We are excited to share that we now have a team of Digital Leaders at Sherwood Junior School.

A Digital Leader is a pupil who supports the use of ICT across school and helps develop the computing curriculum.

Their job includes:

- helping in computing lessons across the school by setting up;
- helping younger children to log on;
- helping peers who are finding something tricky;
- taking assemblies with teachers, being in charge of the technology used;
- be a point of contact for children's online safety concerns;
- being involved in special events;
- attending computing club;
- creating blogs and writing to parents through this computing newsletter;
- being the first to trial new hardware and software.

We are really looking forward to establishing these roles in school and hope you'll join us in saying good luck and thank you to our newly appointed Digital Leaders!

Snapchat Footsteps



Previously only available to Snapchat+ subscribers (the paid version of Snapchat), Footsteps is a feature that Snapchat is rolling out to all users over the coming weeks. Essentially, it's an extension of the Snap Maps feature which shows your location (unless you have Ghost Mode turned on), but this time it shows your travels as footsteps.

When Snap Maps first came out it raised huge safeguarding alarm bells as it was default on, it was only due to public outcry that Snapchat changed the setting to default off. It appears that Footsteps is only available to the user, not others. You can read more about this new feature on TechCrunch [HERE](#).

My Family's digital toolkit



There are so many really good resources out there for parents/carers about how to help keeping children safe online, but it can quickly become really overwhelming. Internet Matters has a really great resource for parents called My Family's Digital Toolkit. This is a personalised resource which gives age-specific advice, advice to deal with specific concerns, recommendations for digital tools to support children's interests and more.

The toolkit is free and you can find more details [HERE](#)

Cyber Security



From financial scams, identity theft, using public WiFi and much more, cyber security is fundamental to all of our lives. Internet Matters have put together a number of articles and resources for parents and their children which go into these topics including:

- Creating secure accounts,
- Phishing and ransomware,
- Digital piracy,
- and much more.

You can find all the resources [HERE](#).

Mobile Phones: Do you know the risks?



We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have. Click [here](#).

EE launches Age Guidance

EE has launched age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance [here](#).

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with a Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then Which? provide an overview of some options available, click [here](#).

Vault - Secret Apps



Have you heard of Vault Apps?

They are basically secret apps that are concealed by looking like a normal, less conspicuous app. For example, one of these apps looks and works like a working calculator when opened, but when a passcode is entered, it reveals photographs, videos, documents and contacts.

One way to prevent your child from using these apps is to ensure parental controls are set up so you can review all app purchases.

You can find out more [here](#).

iOS Update



Apple have recently released their latest operating system, iOS 18.

iOS18 offers lots of new features (some are restricted to newer phones) but one feature that you should be aware of is the ability to now lock and hide apps.

When an app is locked, Face ID, Touch ID or your passcode will be required to open it. This also means that notifications will no longer be shown for that app. Additionally, apps can now be hidden so they can only be accessed through a hidden apps folder that is also locked. This new feature illustrates the need to have regular chats with your child about what they are using their phone for.

Contact Us



If you have any questions regarding online safety, please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Burton.

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