



Redbrook Hayes Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

April E.Safety Update
Be Internet Legends from Google
Fortnite – Battle Royale

As outlined in our E-Safety policy and as part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding children both in and out of school, we write to you today with essential information regarding your child's online safety.

E.Safety Advice – Be Internet Legends

We would like to draw your attention to a new E.Safety website recently launched by Google called 'Be Internet Legends', which can be accessed at: www.beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com

This site is useful to parents as it has a number of online videos which demonstrate clearly how to add parental controls and protect google linked accounts in games and on computers. It is based on 5 key messages, which all internet users should be mindful of when using online applications. These are similar to the SMART rules we regularly reinforce with learners in school. Below, we have provided summaries of 3 of these rules which are most relevant to children's online habitats. We hope these prompts are useful to you in aiding discussions around the internet and social media applications at home.

1. BE INTERNET SHARP - Think Before You Share

Good (and bad) news travels fast online, and children can sometimes find themselves in tricky situations with lasting consequences. But what can they do to prevent this? The answer: understand how to share smartly with those they know – and those they don't.

Every Word Matters

- Treat online communication the same as face-to-face communication.
- If it isn't right to say, it isn't right to post. If in doubt, get guidance on what kind of communication is (and isn't) OK.
- Personal details about family, friends – and yourself – should stay private.

2. BE INTERNET KIND - Respect Each Other

The internet amplifies everything: good things seem more exciting, bad things seem much worse and can hurt – a lot. A great rule to live by online, as well as off, is 'treat others as you would like to be treated yourself'. Children can have a positive impact on others and stop bullying in its tracks by refusing to join in.

Set an Example

- Be a force for good. Use the power of the internet to be nice, not nasty.
- Stop the spread of harmful or untrue messages by not passing them on to others.
- Respect others' differences.

Lead the way

- Block mean, upsetting or inappropriate behaviour online.
- Be a Legend. Step in and provide support to those being bullied.
- Encourage everyone to speak up against, and report, online bullying



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3. BE INTERNET BRAVE - When in Doubt, Discuss!

When children come across something they're not sure about online, they should feel comfortable talking to a trusted adult. Adults can support this by showing they're open to talking, even about difficult or embarrassing things at home and in the classroom.

Encourage Legendary Behaviour

- Set clearly defined family or classroom rules and expectations around technology, and let children know of any consequences there might be for inappropriate use.
- Rather than having one big 'internet safety conversation', keep the dialogue going by encouraging children to ask questions whenever they want.
- Encourage children to talk to other trusted adults such as teachers, family friends or relatives as well.

APP Update: Fortnite – Battle Royale

Finally in this update we would also like to draw your attention to a new game which is sweeping the nation 'Fortnite - Battle Royale.' As a school we are aware that a number of our learners have been talking about this game and would therefore like to draw all parents' attention to the **12+ age restriction** on this game due to its violent content. The game sees 100 players dropped on an island from a 'battle bus' where they have to compete until one survivor remains. Players are encouraged to find weapons to help them survive longer in the game. Clearly this is unsuitable content for players of a primary age.

Identified risks associated with this game are:

- Unsuitable content, weapons and violence for learners under 12.
- Micro transactions
- Risk of Addiction
- Proof of age not required
- Hacker attacks
- Talking to strangers during 'squad mode'

We thank you for your support in protecting our learners from this game over the coming months and thank you for your continued support in this matter. As always, should you have any queries, questions or concerns please do come and speak with us.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs C Pilkington
Deputy Headteacher