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24th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **IMPORTANT ONLINE SAFETY INFORMATION – USING APPS**

At school we take the safety of our children very seriously. This includes whilst they access the internet at **HOME** and on their **MOBILE devices**. It has come to our attention that there are children in KS2 who are regularly using social media sites such as WhatsApp, TikTok and Instagram. **Most Social Media age guidance is at least 13 years old**, with many apps including WhatsApp being 16 years old. This means that children of primary school age should not be using them.

With that in mind, we are sharing with you some **IMPORTANT TOP TIPS** to help you as you guide your children at home. Overleaf, you can find age restriction guidance for popular apps and websites.

## **TOP E-SAFETY TIPS:**

- 1. Have ongoing **CONVERSATIONS** with your children about what games and sites they are using on the computer and or their mobile devices.
- WHO your child is talking to?
- WHAT are they doing?
- WHERE are they going online?
- 2. Use **SAFETY TOOLS** for online services, e.g. privacy settings and **PARENTAL CONTROLS**;
- 3. Set **RULES** at home which may include a **TIME LIMIT** spent online on a computer or a mobile device, and using a **DESIGNATED FAMILY AREA** for online usage e.g. the living room under supervision and **NOT** your child's bedroom.

Some great information about keeping your child safe online can be found at:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/,

https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides and

https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/

https://assets.thekeysupport.com/company/demos/elearning-parental-controls-on-devices-20-21/index.html#/

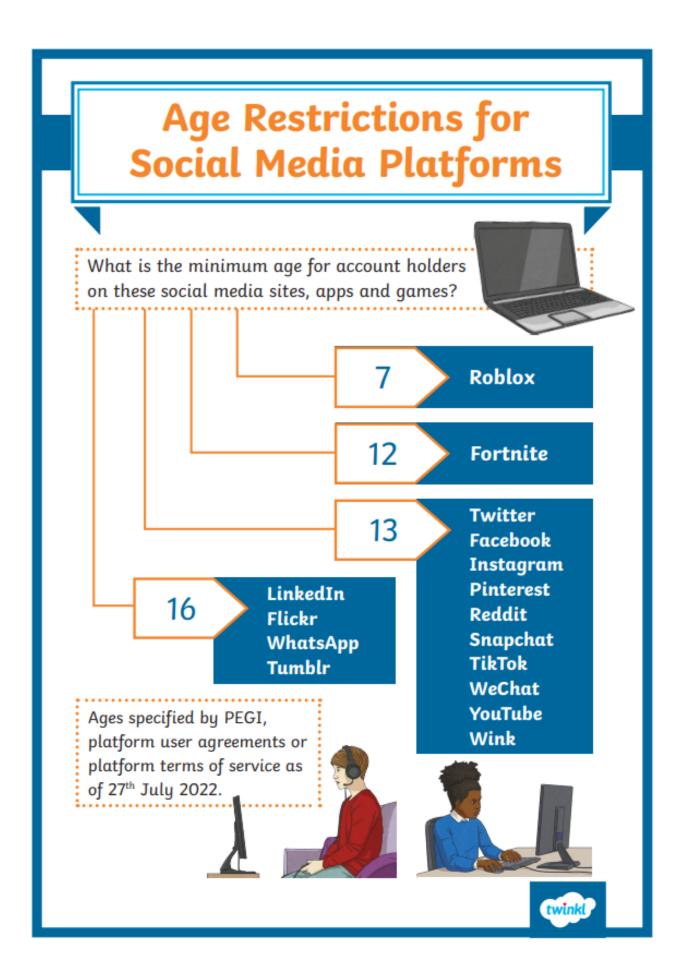
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online.

Yours Sincerely,

Rebecca Ogungbesan – Assistant Head Teacher

Head Teacher: Ken Johnson Deputy Head: Leona Baffour





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