

CAUSEWAY GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Penncricket Lane, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68 8LX.

Developing lifelong skills and aspirations to meet the challenges of the future.

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This is a 'Good' school
(OFSTED 2013)

Miss J. Shingler – Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher – Mrs M. Sangster

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12th July 2017

Dear Parents,

As the summer holidays approach I feel it is pertinent to get in touch with you about some points relating to online safety and your child's use of mobile technology. This letter is going out to the parents of all children at the school and I know, of course, that many of the younger children will not have access to phones, tablets and laptops in the same way that the older children do. That said, I do feel that children can be easily influenced by what they may see older siblings or cousins doing online so I feel it is appropriate to keep all of our parents informed of the latest online safety advice. To enable links, please see online version on our school website.

SnapChat

You may have heard about 'SnapMap', a new feature in SnapChat that reveals your precise location on a map to your 'friends'. As you will know youngsters tend to have many online 'friends', not all of whom they really know. There's a short visual guide to SnapMap [here](#). If your child does plan on experimenting with SnapMap during the holiday, the key thing is to choose 'Select Friends', and NOT 'My Friends'.

App Security

Now might be a great time for you and your child to review the security and privacy settings for the apps they use, by clicking on the settings cog inside each app.

Online Limits

As the summer holidays get underway it would be a good time to have a '[Smart Talk](#)' with your child where you agree on suitable online limits. The agreement is helpful, but perhaps the most useful thing will be the conversation itself.

Parent Guides

Here are some excellent guides about apps, phrased from a parent's perspective:

[SafeSmartSocial](#)

[NetAware](#)

Parental Control Settings on Smartphones

For those parents who permit their children to have smartphones there are free parental control settings on [iPhones](#) and [Android](#) phones but, additionally, some products such as [Norton Family Premier](#) or [Qustodio](#) have parental control apps that may be worth investigating.

These are comprehensive apps with a wide range of features and work on Windows, Apple, iPhone and Android. One of the features is to disable apps or devices at a given time of night. There are also more specific apps designed to monitor only social media activity on iPhone or Android, such as [Bark](#) or [PocketGuardian](#).

Games

The classification of the gaming industry, you may be aware, is different to that of the film industry and therefore games that are recommended for 12+, 16+ and 18+ are not appropriate for youngsters at primary school such as ours. Here is a link to the official [PEGI](#) classification website. If your child is pestering you for a particular game, please check it out first on the excellent [Common Sense Media](#) site. If you decide a game is not appropriate, the site also has lists of more appropriate games for given age groups.

Broadband and Smartphone Filtering

Broadband: It is easy to switch on a free filter on home broadband to block inappropriate content. [Click here for more information](#).

Mobile: You can also enable a free filter via your child's mobile phone provider. Information is available on these pages: [EE](#), [O2](#), [Three](#), [Vodafone](#).

Online Safety Day - Autumn Term

Looking ahead to the Autumn Term we have planned pupil and parent Online safety lessons and workshops.

Yours sincerely,



Miss J. Shingler

(Headteacher)