Welcome!

Welcome to our latest Online Safety Newsletter. Additional information is available on our website (www.rushall.walsall.sch.uk), please go to the Parents section then Online Safety.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school.

Mr Stephens
Computing, Learning Technologies and Online Safety Lead

Online Safety Workshops

Thank you to the parents that attended the parent workshops in November and May. The number of parents attending was a little disappointing, we provide these workshops to ensure you are kept up to date with development in technology and social media to enable you to keep your children safe online. We will once again be running these workshops next academic year.

Snap Chat

We have been made aware of an update to Snap Chat, which introduces Snap Map. Snap Maps allows a user to see their friend's locations. This sharing of location on this app to people your child may not know is dangerous. We suggest that you turn off this feature:

- In the Snapchat settings
- In the Snapchat screen click on the Settings (cog) icon> click on 'see my location' > Choose the setting which suits you
- On the Snap Map
- Click on the setting button in the top right of the map > choose the setting which suits you

Pupil Focus Groups

We have recently held focus groups with KS2 children and discussed Online Safety with them. We were pleased to find that children know how to keep themselves safe on the internet and what to do if they see something that upsets them.

We will be continuing to hold these focus groups to develop our understanding of what children do online.

Website Alert

We have received information about a website that we need to warn parents and carers about, This website can easily be found by children, when searching online.

This website is call SML Movie, it has videos of puppets called Jeffer and Buffer, who do risqué things. Please be aware of this website and do not allow children to view it.

Location Settings Top Tips

Sharing location can be a risky thing to do. Our tips for location sharing are:

- Only share your location with people you know in person. Never share your location with strangers. It is a good idea to keep location settings on, incase you loose your phone.
- Don't add contacts to Snapchat/other apps if you don't know them in person. Ensure settings in these apps are private or to friends only.

Regularly review your settings and take an active decision about whether you want people to know your location. Remember you can switch this off at any time.

Think about where you're sharing your location. Location services such as Snap Maps can lead people to your house. Think about what times you're on the app and whether these are locations you want to share – if not, then turn this off within your settings.

Please remember to talk you your child about what they do online, keeping up to date with any developments and the sites they use.