



# Bolney CEP School | Online Safety Newsletter– October 2023

## Dear Families,

Welcome to our first newsletter for this term. As we approach our half term break, we hope you have a fantastic rest and that you manage to spend some time outside (weather permitting), however we would like to remind you to please continue to have regular conversations about the internet and using technology over this period. In addition to our regular school newsletter’s article regarding internet safety, I would like to bring to your attention some inappropriate material that has been spoken about in school. See page 2 for more detail.



## Latest advice, current news and where to get support

Our children love the internet for a variety of reasons and we enable them to use it in lots of ways in school. In Holly Class this week, we have been using TT Rockstars, Spelling Frame, EdShed and researched the Roman Army. We start every use of technology with a discussion of how to be safe and how to search safely. Digital Matters, a fantastic resource has created some lessons for Anti Bullying week (13<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> November) and their newest lesson is going to explore the question, ‘Is it funny or is it hate?’ We make jokes and sometimes words make people laugh, but actually is it funny or is it hurting them and are they hiding behind the laughter? We will be looking into this more in school during that week but please take notice of your children on both what they are accessing and their online conversations.

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## Games, Apps or articles to discuss at home to help us stay safe online



As part of the school's monitoring and filtering safeguarding procedures, we are aware that the children have been trying to search for the following games and images: Rainbow Friends, Five nights at Freddy's, Hello Neighbor and Poppy Playtime. These are all rated to be at least 10 but mostly 12 + age and are all horror based. The images are really quite scary and could potentially frighten most children and in particular, younger children in school. As children become more independent online, it's possible that they may come across things which are inappropriate for their age or stage of development. Using filters to block explicit content and having frank conversations are just a few ways you equip them with tools to deal with it.

Back in February, our Safer Internet Day was based around the theme 'Want to talk about it?' and there is some useful advice and a blog on the NSPCC website about how to start these conversations that are not always straightforward. Take a look at their website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

October is Cyber Bullying awareness month and as a result The National Cyber Security Centre have some great resources for 7-11 year olds. Cyber Sprinters is a digital game that can be played on phones, tablets and desktop computers with activities to learn more about cyber security. We will be having a look in school but please check it out at home. For more information follow this link: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/cybersprinters>

For more information on anything we have mentioned on this newsletter, please take a look at these websites:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.childnet.com/>



As always, if you would like further support or have any questions, please contact me by email at: [cjames@bolneyprimary.school](mailto:cjames@bolneyprimary.school), Mrs Clare James

