



Friday 16th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has come to our attention that some children are using Roblox unsupervised and are having experiences which are negatively impacting their wellbeing. In particular, the online chat function can be used to communicate, enabling cyber-bullying that can go undetected unless vigilantly monitored by adults. **We strongly advise that children do not play Roblox over the holiday period.**

Over the break, it is especially important to ensure that all children are kept safe effectively when accessing digital devices. Our advice is that **children should always be supervised** and adults should have **high vigilance** regarding children's online use.

We encourage you to begin the holidays with clear boundaries for device use and we advise clear rules for the following:

- screen-time limits
- access under adult supervision online – not in different rooms
- no screens at bedtime or in bedrooms (unsupervised access)
- supervised viewing of online streaming services
- reminding children to use their voices to tell a trusted adult if anything doesn't feel right
- adults having knowing passwords for all devices and accounts and children never having private passwords

We know that rest and relaxation over the break may also involve some time watching films as a family. Netflix and other streaming services have a variety of content targeted at family viewing. However, Netflix also has a wide range of content that is inappropriate and unsafe for children. Even if children initially access Netflix through the *Kids* profile, they are able to switch to another user and access other content. Please be vigilant for this to ensure children are not watching unsafe content. YouTube also has a *Kids* version of the app for safer content.

Please remember that other social media platforms such as TikTok, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Twitch and Discord **are unsuitable for primary-aged children**. The negative impact of social media on children's wellbeing is well documented.

Over the break, we hope you have plenty of time to rest and relax with your families. Please ensure children continue reading for pleasure over the holiday. It is the most important home learning for the break and it will ensure your child returns to school feeling confident and ready to make further progress.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Anna Case