East-the-Water Primary School

Online Safety Newsletter – October 2024

Please take the time to update yourself on the most recent developments regarding online safety.

iOS 18 Launch

Apple have recently released their latest operating system, iOS 18. It offers lots of new features but one feature that you should be aware of is the ability to now lock and hide apps. When an app is locked, Face ID, Touch ID or your passcode will be required to open it. This also means that notifications will no longer be shown for that app.

Additionally, apps can now be hidden so they can only be accessed through a hidden apps folder that is also locked. This new feature illustrates the need to have regular chats with your child about what they are using their phone for.

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

• Viewing inappropriate content
• Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
• Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
• Cyberbullying
• Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age: https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then Which? provide an overview of some options available: https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-firstmobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr

If you have any questions or concerns regarding online safety, please do not hesitate to contact our school.