

# Life online

Dear Parents and Guardians,

These are strange and evolving times we find ourselves in. The internet is proving to be an invaluable tool. All the wonderful things people are putting on the World Wide Web to keep our children entertained is truly inspiring.

However, nothing has changed regarding our duty of care to our children. In fact, we should probably be even more vigilant. As teachers, we are mindful to check everything we signpost you to, but there is so much out there, springing up daily, that you are probably finding lots of other great things for your children to do as well.



From one parent to another, here are some key bits of advice:

Be careful about the use of devices in bedrooms. Ideally you should be able to monitor what they are doing online, and be there if things go wrong.

Be careful about the amount of screen time they are getting, especially near bedtime. Children may have had less opportunity to run around during the lockdown and this, combined with excessive screen use, will not aid peaceful sleep.

If they are using social media to communicate with friends, make sure you can hear what is happening.

All of the work we are setting can be completed on paper and in their exercise books, there is no expectation that it has to be completed online. There are clips and films to help them but their learning can be recorded in their books - just like we do at school.

As the Computing Lead and teacher for the KS2 children on how to stay safe online, I would like to share what they have been taught, along with some tools that may help you in your role as internet gatekeepers. 😊

## **Children's knowledge of staying safe online.**

For **KS1** (years 1 and 2) we use Smartie the Penguin from CHILDNET to talk to the children about online safety in an age-appropriate way.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin>

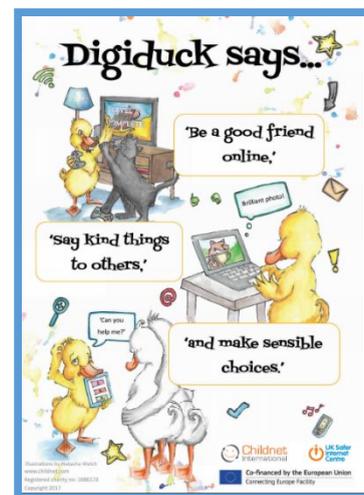
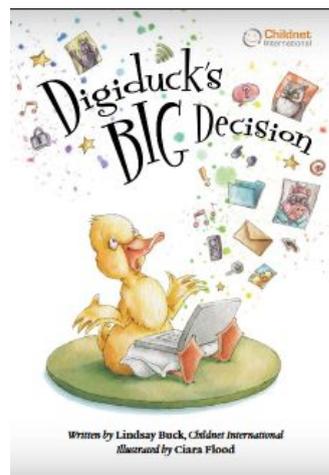
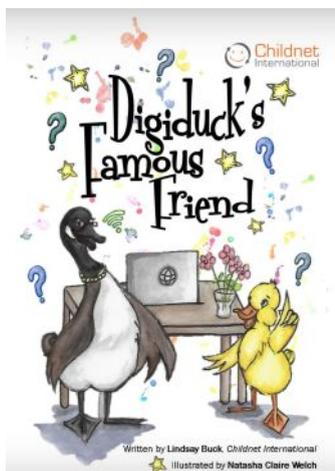
The following song teaches children to think before they click:



In Years 1 and 2, children explore Hector's World from [thinkuknow.co.uk](http://thinkuknow.co.uk) whilst learning about using the internet safely.

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/4\\_7/hectorsworld/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/4_7/hectorsworld/)

For the younger children, these 2 eBooks are good to share:



You can find them at <https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories>

The first story is about keeping personal information safe and the second is about being kind online.

For **KS2** (years 3 to 6)

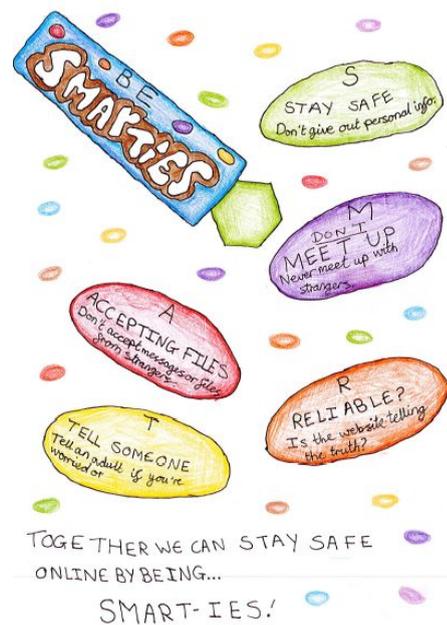
In computing lessons we always refresh their knowledge of the 5 key principles of keeping themselves safe online, using the acronym **SMART**.

we use this CHILDNET short film to get the message across:

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/the-adventures-of-kara-winston-and-the-smart-crew/watch-full-movie>

It would be 19 minutes well spent if you and your child could find the time to watch it through together, lots of scope for a healthy discussion!

Here are a couple of posters, spelling out the SMART message.



In KS2, when we discussed social sites (most having an age limit of 13 or above – which surprised them), we used this great website to explore the reasons why, it also talks through each site's safety features, which is a great resource.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/social-media-guides>

## Social media guides

Find out more about the safety features available on these popular social networks.

**And to help you,** we have been asked to share the following great support links with you.

These can be age appropriate practical support sites for the children, but I wouldn't let them look at them without your presence:

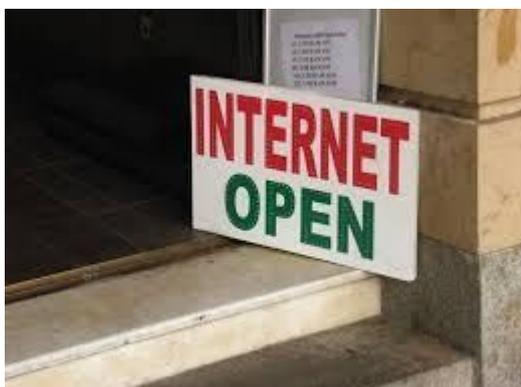
- [Thinkuknow](#) – aimed at children, a set of videos teaching online safety
- [Childline](#) – lots of great all round good advice and support for many issues that may surface from being locked down.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

And to support parents and carers:

- [Internet matters](#) – age specific advice on setting up devices and staying safe online
- [Net-aware](#) – great app specific guidance and things to think about
- [Parent info](#) – advice for families in a digital world
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

Just to finish, the internet and WWW are wonderful tools and resources, particularly in this current situation we all find ourselves in. All we're suggesting is that you know what your children are doing and know where to turn to if you have concerns.

We would like to also reiterate that you still have the school as a resource to pass issues back to or discuss any concerns with, if you need advice or help with your child's online life.



It's currently open and in most cases free.