



A
WE ARE AMBITIOUS AND WANT TO SUCCEED

C
WE WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM
THROUGH **COLLABORATION**

H
WE ACT WITH **HONESTY**

I
WE ARE **INCLUSIVE**, APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES
AND MAKE EVERYONE FEEL WELCOME IN SCHOOL

E
WE CARE FOR OUR **ENVIRONMENT**

V
WE SHOW **VALIANCE** AND COURAGE
WHEN FACED WITH A CHALLENGE

E
WE AIM FOR **EXCELLENCE** IN ALL THAT WE DO



To all the parents/carers,

*Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
&
a happy new year
2026!*

from the pupils and staff
at Southwold Primary & Nursery School



Y3 Arya

Earth House: Arya



Earth House: John



Southwold Primary
& Nursery School



Fire House: Joshan



Fire House: Avi



Southwold Primary
& Nursery School



Fire House: Sienna



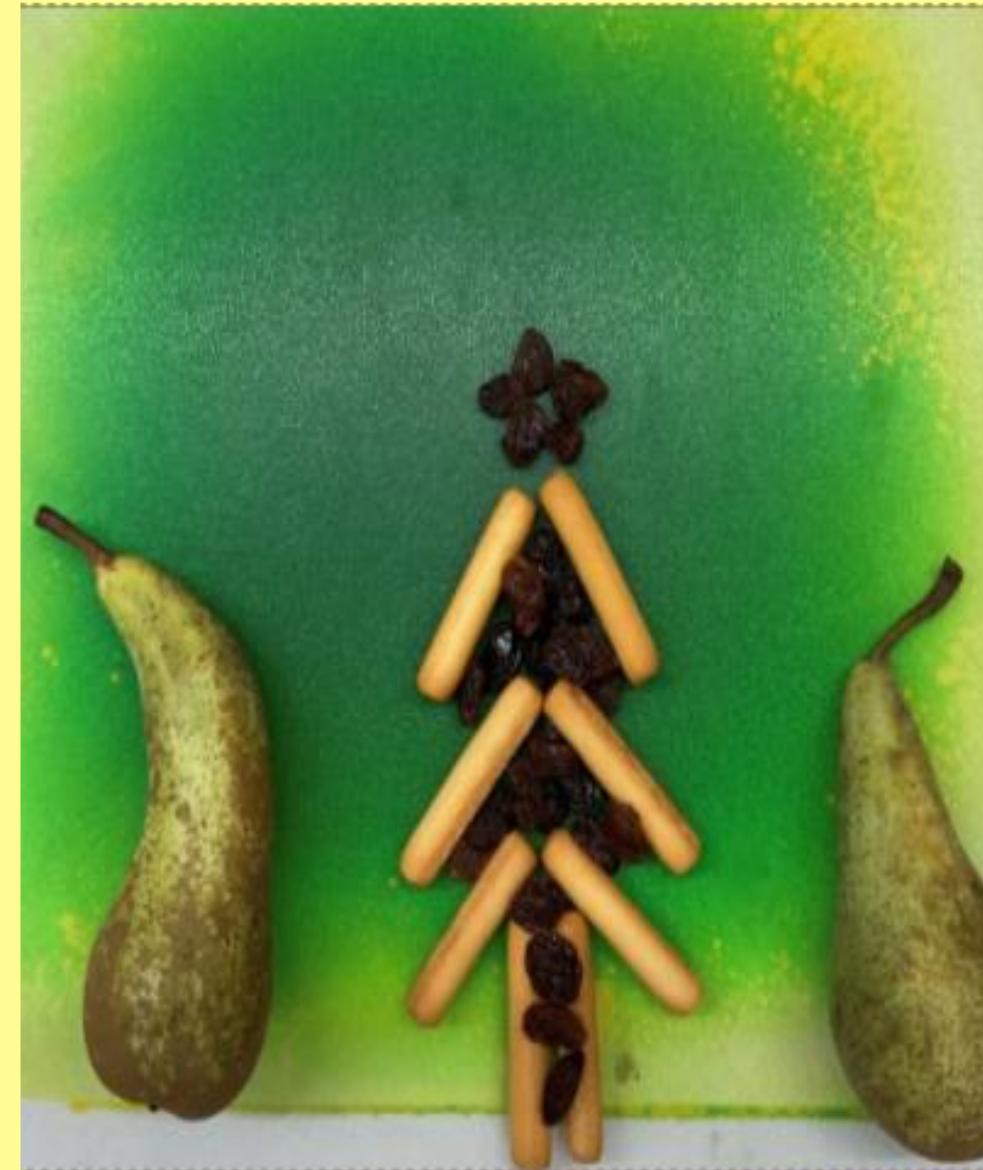
Water House: Victoria



Water House: Alaia



Southwold Primary
& Nursery School



Air House: Anisia & Rosie

Class		Week 6	Week 7
Nursery	Blossom (VM, SH)	Freddie	Denis
	Apple (KG)		
Reception	Birch (JC)	Barney	Amaka
	Cherry (VB)		
Year 1/2	Chestnut (CR/AH)	Zachary	Dylan
	Holly (KG/AH)		
	Ivy (WM)	Unathi	Filip
Year 3/4	Maple (LS)	Lena	Eboni
	Oak (KR)		
	Pine (ZS)	Logan C	James
Year 5/6	Sycamore (ST)	Antonia	Daisy
	Spruce (BS)		
	Rowan (JS)	Scarlett S	Emma
	Willows (KC, AH)	Kourtn ey	Lewis N
		Peyton	Radu
		Oliver	Laycrus

House Points

1st Red Fire 1097
 2nd Yellow Air 1071
 3rd Blue Water 974
 4th Green Earth 956

Attendance winner:

Week 6- Mr Milward 98%
 Week-: Mrs Sagar 98%

Bronze Badge awarded:

EYFS
 Chance

KS1
 Dunca

KS2
 Oliver B
 Jai
 Alice W
 Evelyn
 Chase
 Guang
 Anisia
 Bosco
 Rosie
 Libby
 Finley T
 Zachary

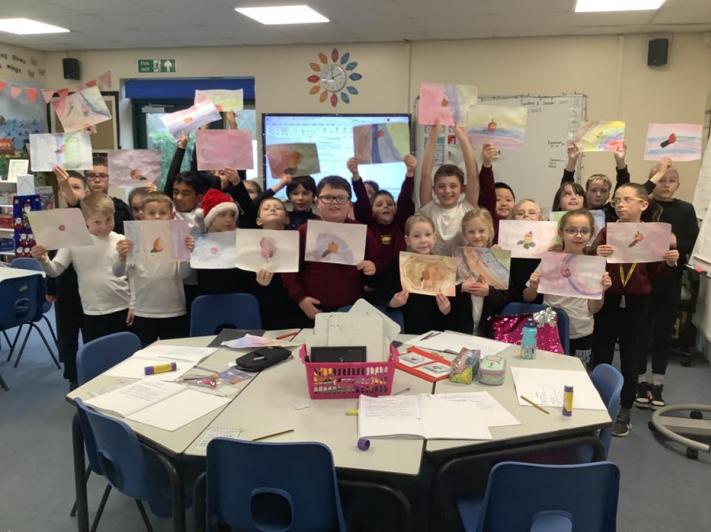


EYFS

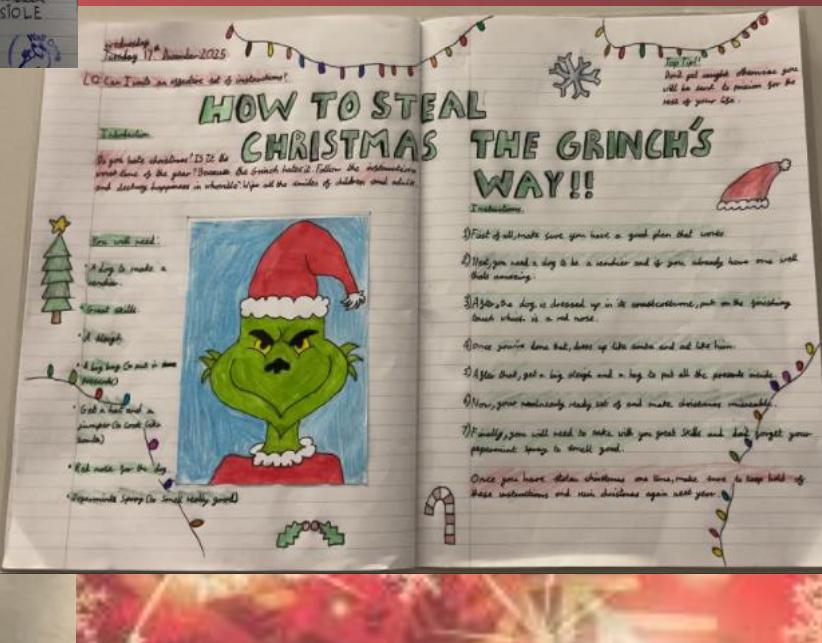
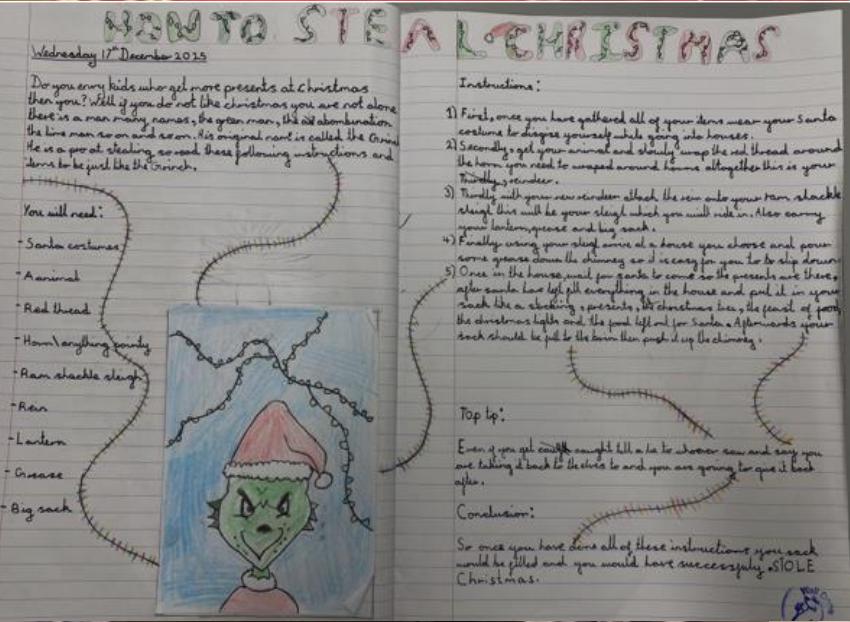


Y1 & 2





Y5&6



The Willows



Choir Club

The wonderful Choir Club attended Cherwood House to sing a range of Christmas Carols. The residents loved this experience and even participated in singing along with the children. The children were then gifted with some delicious Christmas goodie bags!



Code Club

Mr Townsend and his Codeclubber's used their Microbits on the tree in the hall by using a range of algorithms to create various effects. Super coding everyone!

You can have a go on your computer at home using the Microbit free software, no microbit device needed.<https://microbit.org/projects/make-it-code-it/festive-decoration/>



Christmas Lunch 2025



Santa Fun Run



Santa Fun Run



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY

Generative AI tools sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children can easily access disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

IDEAS

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

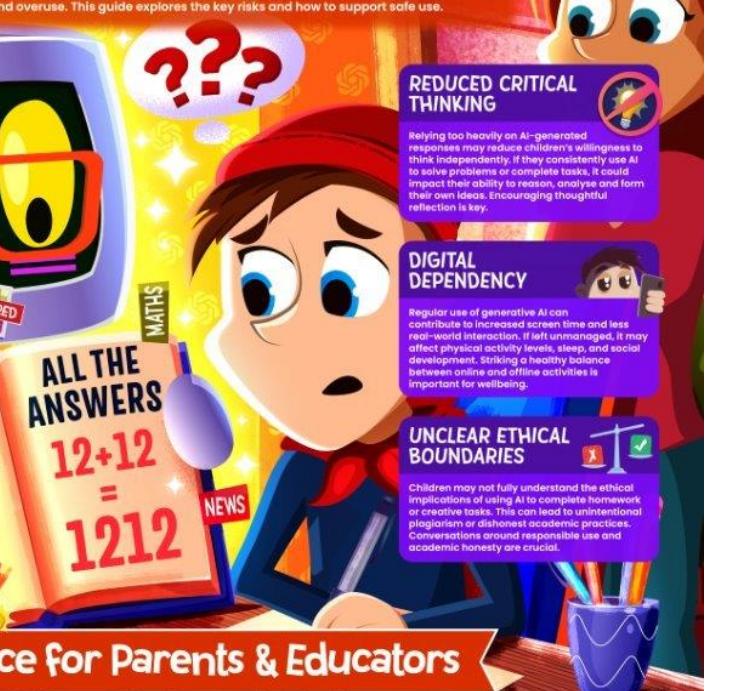
Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Compass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, travelling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY
Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Encouraging children to visit age-appropriate websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS
The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure fire extinguishers are located and operational, teach fire extinguishers on how to use them and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS
More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seat belt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES
Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts and avoid food allergies with over-the-counter medications like antihistamines or epipens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS
Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses and colds. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene and encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD
Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS
Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards. Miniature lights, tinsel, tinsel trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS
Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts are age-appropriate and safe for the child's age can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE
Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, relaxation and self-care into the day to support mental health. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY
Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate a responsible adult to drive and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert
James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS

bbfc **PEGI**

If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.

RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS
Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?
BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

U Universal, suitable for all ages	PG Parental Guidance required	12 Suitable for people aged 12 and over	12A Suitable for people aged 12 and over, younger must be accompanied by an adult
15 Suitable for people aged 15 and over	18 Suitable for people aged 18 and over	R18 RESTRICTED Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers	

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?
PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

3 www.pegi.info	7 www.pegi.info	12 www.pegi.info	16 www.pegi.info	18 www.pegi.info
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PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?
Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS
It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS
It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

PARENTAL CONTROLS
It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk Source: www.pegi.info

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, make sure you set a passcode that makes it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Lock & Password. Then Screen Lock Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a screen lock passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with contacts you've placed restrictions on. App Store purchases and appy age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromecast, through Google Family Link. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents manage which apps are used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone. Once the device is online and logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member. Enter the child's Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time controls to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. The Mac has its own family sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nesting under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded from the internet, it's not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed rapidly in recent years. Titles are no longer free, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge price differences between these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, share computers, consoles or phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check that in-app purchasing is disabled. Purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether they're suitable for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully, especially with large apps that can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let you download entire movies and TV shows, for example. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with viruses. It's important to tell children installing unusual apps with 'free', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

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IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details such as a name, address and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your device's privacy settings, as they're not always governed by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

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STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they might not notice them on the screen. Check your child's device's notifications to make sure these updates are being installed.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics card to run. systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have voice communication systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly noisy. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through playing. These can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a website or download an app from an unknown source. Warn your child about such offers: they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps that look like well-known titles but run into hours of malware (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

HELLO OSCAR

TOK TOK

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details such as a name, address and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your device's privacy settings, as they're not always governed by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

MEET OUR EXPERT

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