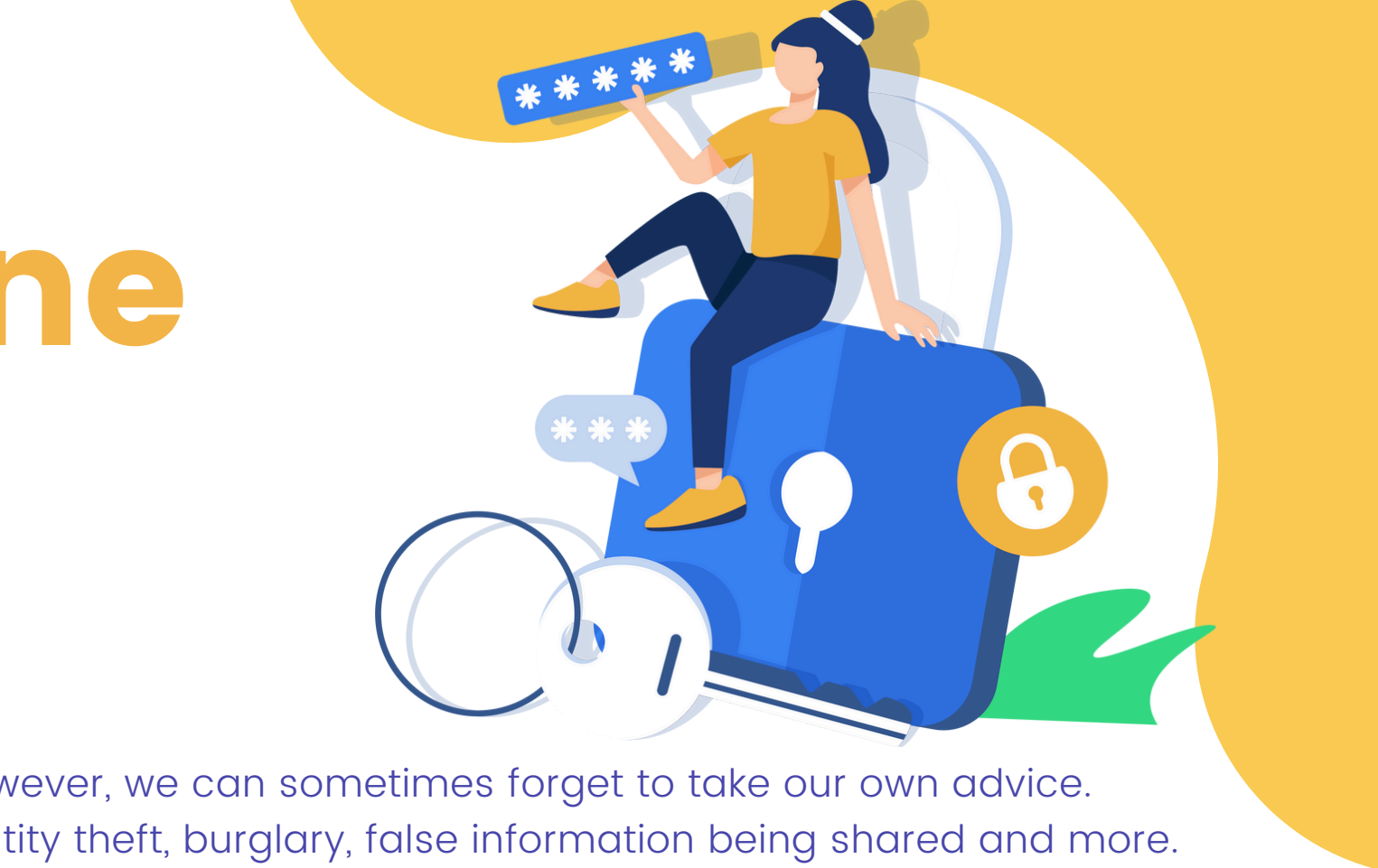


# February 2025 Online Safety Update



This Month's Online Safety Theme is: 'Keeping our private information private.'

We often speak to our children about not sharing key information about themselves online – however, we can sometimes forget to take our own advice. If we share our personal information online, we can put ourselves and our families at risk of identity theft, burglary, false information being shared and more. For many of us, we have heard these messages time and again, but it is worth keeping mind what information we are putting out there without realising it. For example, do you put your holiday snaps on social media while you are still away? If so, you are making it clear to everyone that you are not at home. Some insurance companies will refuse to pay out if you get burgled following social media posts that show you're not at home. The solution? Save posting the photos for when you're back.

Similarly, do you tag your location when you're out and about? You might be showing people that you go shopping at a particular supermarket every Thursday night, or that you work out at a particular gym.

Another easy mistake to make is when we use social media to arrange parties and gatherings. While we may feel happy with everyone we have invited knowing our home address, do we feel OK with other people seeing a screenshot of the address?

Some helpful tips can be to ensure your privacy settings are set to private and to every 6 months or so, check through your online contacts. Ask yourself, are you still OK with that colleague from 8 years ago knowing all about your children? If not, change your settings. When we do this, it's good to talk to our children about what we are doing – and why. This way we can model positive online safety strategies, and they can see the benefits. They can even watch us as we unfriend old contacts, remove photos and change our settings.

As always, if you are worried about online safety issues affecting your child, you can always contact us for support. The pastoral team at The Meadows can be contacted on 0121 569 7089.