



Online Safety Newsletter

April 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been requested by safeguarding professionals that we circulate some warnings about particular games and apps that are potential risks for children and young people. Some are widely used, whereas others are just beginning to trend in the area. There is concern that the following apps and games are platforms for grooming or are potentially dangerous.

More information about the issues with these games or apps can be found online.

Roblox - This is a popular online gaming platform, used by over 30 million people, which allows users to create virtual worlds and play with other people. However, there is also a chat feature which can allow users to be contacted by strangers. Certain games do have age restrictions, but there is no filter to stop younger children accessing them.

Yellow - This is an app used as an 'easy and free way to make new friends and chat with them'. It allows children to 'swipe' to like people based on their pictures, then engage in conversation with them. It has been likened to the dating app 'Tinder'.

Monkey and Omegle - These are two similar apps that randomly pair users to have one-to-one video chats. People can remain anonymous on these apps; this poses obvious risks. The issue is that many young people pride themselves on the number of 'internet friends' they are accumulating.

Blue Whale Challenge - This is a game-like challenge that is played and spread through social media. Players are 'challenged' and encouraged to self-harm.

There will be an '**Online Safety**' desk at the parents' evenings on Tuesday 4th April and Thursday 6th April. Please feel free to ask for any advice or take an information leaflet.

Twitter Reminder - Please make your accounts on Twitter private by going onto 'Settings and Privacy' then 'Privacy and Safety' and turn on the 'Protect my Tweets' button.