



A caring learning community

Head Teacher: Mrs E Cole B Ed (Hons)

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Dear Parents/Carers,

e-Safety is a very important part of keeping children safe at Malvern Way School. It is something that we teach to all children and explain how important it is to stay safe online. However, in order for this message to be consistent for the children it is imperative that we work together with parents and carers to deliver messages clearly. It has been brought to our attention that some children at our school are having access to popular online computer games such as Fortnite, Grand Theft Auto and Call of Duty. These games are not appropriate for our young children.

Many online games can be accessed easily by young children at home. The games mentioned above have age ratings (PEGI) 12 years and above. Fortnite, for example, has a PEGI from 12 years and above. When you read the synopsis of the game it appears quite innocent 'You and your friends will lead a group of Heroes to reclaim and rebuild a homeland that has been left empty by a mysterious darkness only known as "the Storm". However, when playing the game you have the opportunity to make hundreds of guns, swords and 'things that go boom', children can also 'Make impregnable forts. Tastefully decorate with sniper perches, poison gas traps, and jump pads.' This game, much like Call of Duty, provides opportunities to play online with people from around the world. You are able to communicate with these people whilst playing which can be a huge risk to our young children. These games also contain some very strong language as well as show extremely unsuitable scenes of graphic violence.

We recommend that parents/carers:

- Check what your children are having access to online or on computers at home.
- Monitor the use of games consoles as many games can be found online without actually having the game disk.
- Carefully read and consider our termly e-safety newsletters to keep up to speed with current e-safety issues and advice.

Useful sites you may wish to visit:

- [www.parentinfo.org/](http://www.parentinfo.org/) - This website was developed out of a partnership between CEOP and The Parent Zone and contains lots of good Online Safety advice.
- [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) - Here you will find Online Safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the internet.

Children have more opportunities to use the internet now more than ever. The internet is an exciting and fun place for adults and children to use but it is very important that the children and parents know how to stay safe when playing games and/or playing them online. The children's safety has always been paramount here at Malvern Way School.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding e-safety please speak to your class teacher or myself directly.

Mr Reid

