

# VENTURE MAT ONLINE



July 2023

Issue 13

## TLA Year 6 Amnesty

For this year's social media amnesty we had a visit from PCSO John, who talked about online safety, cyberbullying and the law.



In the second session we covered several different topics with the children based on feedback from the class teachers and in preparation for secondary school.

The topics we covered were:

- Group Chats
- Whatsapp
- TikTok
- Digital Footprints
- Cyberbullying



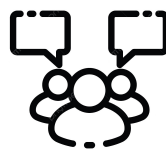
The children were encouraged to bring in their own devices and were given access to the internet. They were then allowed to use apps and play games. This gave us the opportunity to talk to them about what they like to use their devices for, the apps, social media and games they use. It also gave children the opportunity to help each other to make sure their privacy and security settings were set up correctly.

We then asked the children what apps and games they enjoyed using, which gave staff the chance to learn about news apps and look into any safety concerns there might be.

## Group Chats

Group chats can be really fun and helpful, they allow you to talk to more than one person at a time. There are lots of apps and social media sites that you can do this on, the most popular one at Trevithick is Whatsapp.

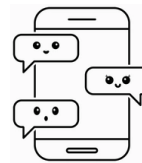
Chats are often created for close friends or family to use so that they can stay in touch, however some group chats can have hundreds of people in. This means that you could potentially be talking to



strangers, which is obviously a serious problem we all want to avoid.

Group chats can be used to socialise with others, share hobbies, discuss schoolwork and organise events.

Parents need to be aware of the negative aspects of group chats in order to help their children navigate them.



Children may end up in chats with people they don't know (both children and adults), this puts children at risk of sharing private information with strangers as well as sharing photos and video chats.

Another problem with group chats is that they have the potential to turn nasty, especially those with lots of people in. Children might send nasty messages, send inappropriate pictures, exclude someone and could lead to cyberbullying.

Children may also become overwhelmed by notifications from the chat or suffer from FOMO (fear of missing out) which could lead to being on the device during inappropriate times or when they should be asleep!

It's important to talk to your child about who they are chatting with and remind them how to stay safe.

1. Never share private information
2. Speak to an adult if nasty messages are sent in the chat.
3. Avoid group chats with people you don't know.
4. Leave the chat if you ever feel uncomfortable or worried.
5. Remember that it's nearly impossible to remove messages and pictures once they have been sent.

More information can be found on these websites:

- <https://www.childnet.com/blog/group-chats-the-new-digital-etiquette/>
- [https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_18/lets-talk-about/socialising-online/group-chats/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_18/lets-talk-about/socialising-online/group-chats/)
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

## Whatsapp



Whatsapp is the most popular messaging app used in TLA. It can be used to send messages to contacts you have in your phone, either in individual chats or in group chats. Whatsapp allows written messages, voice calls and video calls. The age limit for Whatsapp is 16+ which is due to data protection laws.

Whatsapp is popular because it is free and is often used by family members. It allows children to communicate with their friends and family using wifi and data rather than phone credit.



As well as being aware of the problems children may encounter through group chats, parents also need to be aware of some of the safety issues with Whatsapp:

- Whatsapp does not allow users to decide whether to join a group, users can be added to any chat a contact in your phone adds you to. If you leave the group the admin can add you straight back in.
- Everyone in a group chat has access to each other's phone number, which could lead to you receiving messages or phone calls from people you don't know.
- You can block people from sending you individual messages, however if you are in a group chat with someone you have blocked they will still be able to communicate with you through the chat.
- Messages can easily be forwarded on to another chat or screenshot and shared to other apps.
- The group chat admin could remove you from the group chat, leaving users feeling left out and excluded.



Here are the safety tips we gave to Year 6:

- Change who can see your status, profile photo, about or last seen status. Make it either private or contacts only.

- Turn **OFF** Live Location; people can see exactly where you are, even those in group chats you might not know!
- Never share personal or private information, you might not know everyone in the chat and information can be shared very easily.
- Don't share photos, these can be shared easily too!
- Report & block contacts and messages that are problematic.
- If you don't want to talk to someone you can block them from sending you further messages - unless you are both in a group chat!
- You can change your group privacy settings so only certain people can add you to group chats.
- If you are invited to a video chat, check who is on the call already. If you don't know everyone on the call **DO NOT ACCEPT!**
- **LEAVE THE GROUP CHAT ALTOGETHER!**

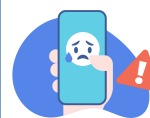
For more information on Whatsapp please visit the websites below:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/whatsapp>
- <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1313491802751163>

## Cyberbullying



Cyberbullying is a form of bullying that takes place online, using phones, tablets, computers and game consoles. One difference with cyberbullying is that the victim has no safe place to escape to because wherever their phone/tablet etc is they can be bullied. Another difference is that you don't always know the real identity of the bully so it can be hard to know who to trust and how to make them stop.



There are lots of different forms of cyberbullying including; sending abusive messages, cyber stalking, trolling and excluding others from online games or friendships groups.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

There are no specific laws against cyberbullying, however the act of



sending abusive messages, pictures and videos is against the law. There are a few different laws that bullies can be prosecuted under.

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/bullying-and-law/online-bullying-and-law>

There is advice for bullying victims on the BBC Own It website. There is also advice for people who are bullies about how to make amends for their behaviour.

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/curations/bullying-and-trolling>

If you or your child are being bullied please see the following advice:

- Tell someone what's happening
- Write it down/ take screenshots for evidence
- Block and report the bully
- Focus on you
- Get expert advice



There are also a few things you can do to protect yourselves:

- Do not post private information such as your home address or your password anywhere online
- Only give your mobile phone number to your close friends and relatives
- Be careful about posting images of yourself or friends
- Learn how to block messages or filter spam messages so that you do not receive them in the future
- Adjust your privacy settings on social media accounts so that only friends and relatives can see your information.
- Be careful who you add as a friend

For further advice visit the [Childline](https://www.childline.gov.uk) website or call 0800 1111.



## Digital Footprint

Anyone who has ever been online has a digital footprint, if you go online a little bit then your footprint will be small. However, if you go online a lot, your footprint will be huge!



Everytime you post, comment, like something, click on a link, play a game or search something online that information is stored. It leaves a digital footprint behind, like a trail showing who you are, what you like, where you go and so much more.

Your digital footprint can then be found by others, they can gather impressions of the type of person you are and form opinions about you before they have even met you.



This can have a huge impact on your future. Universities will google potential students, companies will google you when applying for jobs, friends may even google you to see what kind of person you are.

It's important that children make sure they have positive digital footprints and not negative ones. Some celebrities and sports stars have had their careers ruined by comments they made when they were just teenagers.

Here are some tips for protecting your digital footprint:

- Make sure your privacy settings have been set up properly.
- Think carefully before you post or share anything.
- Think carefully about how you would feel if what you were about to post was shared around the world.
- Is this something you could share privately in real life or with just a select few people rather than to everyone?
- Delete and remove any posts that you have previously sent that might be thought of as inappropriate or embarrassing. Although things posted online will be there forever, removing them reduces the chances of them being seen by others.
- Share the positive things you have done and achieved, these will help you be seen in a positive light when you're older.



<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/curations/your-digital-footprint>

## TikTok

TikTok is a very popular app with our children, despite it having a minimum age of 13. Children can create and share short videos as well as watch other people's content.



When children aged 13-16 create a TikTok account they are automatically set to private by default. If TikTok suspects children under 13 have an account it will be deleted.



TikTok has some parental control settings that can be activated. Children's accounts can also be paired to a

parent's account to enable parents to monitor what their child is seeing and who they are talking to. TikTok has tools for managing screen time and restricting content so your child is less likely to come across inappropriate videos.

If children are creating TikTok videos and sharing content they **MUST** have parental permission. Children should limit who they are sharing their videos with and turn off comments, this way children will not see negative comments.

Children should make sure their privacy settings are set to private so they can only communicate with people they know. They should never share private information and be careful of what appears in the background of their videos ensuring they are not showing private information.

If children are creating videos with other people in, they **MUST** ask the other person's permission before posting the video.

If children see anything that makes them uncomfortable or upset they **MUST** report the content to TikTok using the report features and block anyone who makes them uncomfortable.



For more information about TikTok please use the links below:

- <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>
- <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

## **BBC OwnIt**

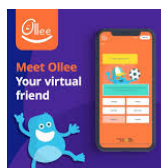
BBC OwnIt is a fantastic resource, full of engaging videos, quizzes and advice. It's perfect for children from year 4 up, and will support them through their teenage years too. BBC OwnIt gives advice about social media, gaming, digital wellbeing, friendship, mental health and loads more!

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit>



## **Ollee**

Ollee is a new app from Parent Zone and funded by Children in Need. Ollee is a digital friend, designed to help children and parents reflect on feelings and experiences. It offers advice on a range of subjects, including: school, family, friends,



their body, the internet and the world. Look at [Parent Zone](#) for more information.

## **Be Internet Legends - Family Adventure**



Google and Parent Zone have released new resources for families to access at home, including 3 episodes of their new cartoon '[The Legends Family Adventure](#)'. The episodes cover scams, and how to spot them; being careful about what information you share; hacking and passwords. Each episode has a short activity to complete as a family.

These episodes are linked to Google's 'Be Internet Legends' online safety lessons. There is also a game called '[Interland](#)', which has several lands and tasks to complete around online safety.

There is further information on their [Parent page](#), where you can learn about their 5 rules :

- Be internet sharp
- Be internet alert
- Be internet secure
- Be internet kind
- Be internet brave

[https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en\\_uk/parents/](https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/parents/)

## **How to report an incident**

If your child tells you or shows you something inappropriate that they have seen online please report it. It could help prevent this from happening to someone else.

The first place it needs reporting is to the APP/ Website/Game it happened on.

If you are worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating online let CEOP know. You can report it by visiting [www.ceop.police.uk/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/) or by clicking the button on our website. The website will guide you through how to make a report.



For further advice visit the School's website, visit the [Childline](#) website or call 0800 1111

