# Venture MAT online

**Friday 12th October 2018**      **Issue 1**

Welcome to our brand new computing newsletter. We hope to share information about what the children have been learning, provide important online safety advice and provide links to helpful guides and information.

In this first newsletter we are focusing on TLA, in future we hope to include information about our other schools as well.

## This Term

Little Bears and Billy Goats had a visit from Mrs Tully who told them a story about Smartie the Penguin and how they must tell an adult if something goes wrong.

Goblins and Gingerbreads have enjoyed their first lessons using the Chromebooks. They have practised logging on, they have explored using a compass app on the iPads and learnt some coding using the Beebots.

Wizards and Genies have also practised logging onto the Chromebooks using their new passwords and have been getting quicker and quicker! They have also started exploring algorithms and have had a go at creating their own.

Trolls and Unicorns have learnt about the importance of keeping their passwords safe as well as lots of research for their topic, including researching about Iron Age bread.

Knights and Jesters have been researching about mining in Cornwall and how to be a responsible user of the internet.

Buccaneers and Pirates have been learning about password security and how to make sure their passwords are as strong and safe as possible.

Giants and Kings have explored using Google Classroom, undertaken research about the Mayans and used the internet to investigate different forms of writing, as part of their literacy.

Dragons have been enjoying using their new 1:1 iPads, they have had a session with Mrs Tully and been enjoying some coding.

## Welcome to the MAT

On 1st October St Issey School joined Venture MAT. Last year Mr Harvey held a Computing day at St Issey. The whole day was spent coding using various devices with interesting results. This year we hope to continue that collaboration with St Issey. We are already in discussions about another Computing day where we continue with more coding but also spend some time discussing several aspects of E-Safety. Mrs Tully and Mr Harvey look forward to updating you soon.

## eCadets

Our eCadets have the important task of helping teach their classmates about how to stay safe online. They are all incredibly enthusiastic and have been working hard.

This term they have introduced a competition to find a school 'online safety mascot'. They will be choosing 3 winners from each year group, these will then be uploaded to the eCadet site to be judged. The winner will become our school's new Online Safety mascot.

Over the next term the eCadets will be teaching their classes about screen time and online friendships.

*"We enjoy using computers and like learning about e-safety. We think e-safety is really important and want to encourage and inspire others to be safe." Year 5 and 6 eCadets.*

## E-safety Questionnaire and Online Safety Talk

This term all children in KS2 were asked to complete an e-safety questionnaire. We gathered information about the children's knowledge of staying safe online, how they're using the internet and how safe they feel.

Using this information we have learnt about what we need to do to improve the children's online safety knowledge as well as what information we need to make available to parents and staff.

We have learnt that over half of our children are using the internet on a daily basis (53%) and just over a third (38%) are using it for longer than 2 hours. This suggests that we need to make sure all children and parents are aware of how to stay safe.

The majority of our children spend their time playing games online and watching YouTube. For YouTube guidance visit (https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/a-parents-ultimate-guide-to-youtube). The children's favourite online games appear to be Fortnite (please see the helpsheet on the school website for advice), Minecraft and Roblox. For reviews of these games and any other games or Apps you would like to know about please visit www.commonsensemedia.org.
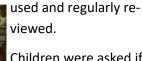
We recently had a visit from an online safety specialist—PC Steve, he gave talks to years 4, 5 and 6. His main advice, when it comes to the games the children are playing online, is to 1) Play the game/watch the game yourself, so you understand what your children are playing 2) Turn off **ALL** chat, including audio and visual.

Children are often playing games online with adults, and of course their language will not always be appropriate for children, some of it may also be directed at your child. They don't need to know about it! 3) Block and report anyone who is making you feel uncomfortable, this ensures that they won't be able to do the same to others.

Some of our children are now using social networks, including Snapchat and Instagram. It's important to understand that these sites have an age restriction of 13 years old. However if your child is using them, it's important that their privacy settings have been set up, there are guides on how to ensure your child is as safe as possible, these can here found here on the school website. One of the scariest things PC Steve showed us during his talks was just how easy it was for anyone to find out exactly where a photo was taken, including directions on how to get there. So if your child is taking photos and sharing online, it's incredibly important to make sure their privacy and location settings are used and regularly reviewed.

Children were asked if they had ever been asked for personal information on the internet, 26% said yes. Children were then asked about what they did in response. A number of our children responded, telling the person that they weren't going to tell them (which is good!) but this can lead to that child becoming involved in a conversation with the person. The best advice for this is for the child to not respond at all, tell an adult, and for that adult to report and block them.

Children were asked about which rooms in their house they go online, 80% said that they accessed the internet in their bedrooms. It is advised that children go online in public rooms, so you know what they are accessing and doing. It's really important that you talk about their online safety as well as set rules for using the internet. 75% of our children have discussed online safety at home and 70% have said that they have rules set for them, which is great!

Overall, our children feel safe online both at home and at school and most of the children know what to do if they are made to feel uncomfortable or treated badly.

For further information please look on the school website. It is constantly being updated with the latest online safety information.