



Westvale Primary School

Online Safety Newsletter: Feb 2018



Safer Internet Day: 6th February



Safer Internet Day (SID) takes place each February to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology, especially among children and young people. Celebrated on the second day of the second week of the second month. Safer Internet Day 2018 encourages everyone to join and play their part. There are many ways to do this:

- **Children and young people** can help to create a better internet by being kind and respectful to others online, by protecting their online reputations (and those of others), and by seeking out positive opportunities to create, engage and share online.
- **Parents and carers** play a crucial role in empowering and supporting children to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively, whether it is by ensuring an open dialogue with their children, educating them to use technology safely and positively, or by acting as digital role models.

Childnet UK have created a list of activities and suggestions on how to help children think about being safe and positive online. [Click here to download the full list of activities.](#)

Life in Likes

The Children's Commissioner for the UK has just released a report on the impact of social media in schools. In it she highlights how *'many children are approaching a 'cliff edge' as they transition from primary to secondary school, with social media becoming much more important in their lives but causing them greater anxiety.'* When you talk to your child about social media, find out what apps they are using and let them know that they can speak to you about any online issues. You can also try to encourage them to have other interests/hobbies as research shows children who take part in hobbies, sports or other activities are less reliant on social media.

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Focus on 'Fornite'

(Game available on Playstation 4, Xbox One, Windows and Mac)
PEGI Rating 12

This is a popular game with children so we thought it would be useful to let you know more about it.

Players use strategic thinking, creativity and forward planning to build fortifications while working with teammates to defend survivors and objectives from waves of enemy monsters.

The game has a cartoonish style and the violence, while persistent, isn't bloody or particularly gory. The game does encourage players to make additional in-game purchases, though not required. While the game doesn't feature any profanity, its online nature could expose younger players to offensive language from random strangers in voice or on-screen text chat.

Parents should be aware that a free to play multiplayer mode, called Battle Royale, supports up to 100 players fighting against each other or in teams to be the last player standing.