

26<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

### ONLINE SAFETY BEHAVIOURS

It has come to our attention over the last few months that there is an increasing number of children accessing what the school and many other organisations deem to be inappropriate material for children of primary age.

One title in particular is *Five Nights at Freddy's* which is a series of indie horror games. Parents need to be aware that *Five Nights at Freddy's* is a horror game that uses tension and jump scares in place of blood and guts and, as a result, is a lot scarier than many other titles. The sense of being trapped and defenceless in a small office quickly becomes real and this can have a lasting impact on younger children and cause nightmares and sleepless nights.

If you wish to read more information about this game, use the link below.

<https://www.common sense media.org/app-reviews/five-nights-at-freddys>

Another title that has been brought to our attention is *Fortnite*. For some parents, the cartoonish, bloodless style of action in *Fortnite* makes the violence less problematic than the aggressive gore in other popular shooter games. But the game's online chat feature, especially in *Battle Royale*, could expose younger players to offensive language or mature content from random strangers. The school does not recommend games with open chat for children under 11, but with the right controls and parental guidance some of these issues can be avoided.

A number of staff have been informed by the children that they have been watching videos of other people playing these games on YouTube whilst out of school. Even though there are fun and interesting videos on YouTube, there also exist: inappropriate content from ads, negative comments, swear words and hate speech, which is a cause for concern.

The link below is a fantastic place to learn more about YouTube and how children are using the video sharing service today. Please take some time to look at the content and speak to your children about their online behaviours.

<https://www.common sense media.org/youtube>

As part of our Online Safety curriculum in school, all children are educated on using the internet safely, however they seem to 'forget' to apply the rules outside of school. Aside from talking through the reasons for not allowing access to certain items on the internet, please remember to use parental control settings on ANY devices that your child has access to in order to minimise the risks.

All the links in this letter have been tweeted from @DelaprePrimary on Twitter for your convenience. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher who can refer you to the correct person.

Yours faithfully

**A Flynn**  
IT Subject Leader

