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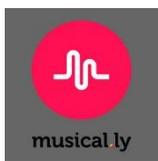
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<http://www.wytonprimaryschool.org.uk>

Head teacher: Ms Jo Phillips
25th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term E-Safety Update



At Wyton on the Hill, we believe that digital technology provides an incredible opportunity for children to access a world of information and learning at the click of a button. But, like many parents and carers, we are becoming increasingly aware of the risks it can pose to children's safety and well-being if it is not used with care.

We want all of our children to be safe when online and to know how to use the internet responsibly. We make sure that we plan a number of opportunities throughout the school year for teaching e-safety and, as part of this, class teachers frequently remind our pupils about the use of social media. Whilst we are aware that it is mainly the older children in school who use social media and online gaming, online safety is relevant for all ages.

As we embark on the new school year, we would like to share with you some useful reminders about some of the apps and games our children have told us they have used, so that you can reduce the risks associated with them.

Musical.ly

We are aware that some of our children have used the app **Musical.ly** outside of school. Musical.ly is a free social media music app where users can watch user generated lip sync video, and create video themselves lip-syncing or dancing to music available on the app. Concerns relating to this app in terms of safeguarding are well publicised. These relate to content (links to explicit materials / other sites) and contact (children being groomed online through the app).

The app is designed for children aged **13+** but the app's own terms and conditions state that users must affirm that they are **18+** which gives some indication of the risks in using it for younger children.

If your child is using the app, please check the following on a regular basis:

- What are they posting?
- Who are they communicating with?
- What are they accessing through the app?

For further information, you can visit: <https://theycybersafetylady.com.au/2016/03/musical-ly-not-for-kids/>

Minecraft

A number of our pupils play Minecraft regularly and although it can be an amazing learning tool, news items over the past year have highlighted the dangers that some pupils may face if they do not keep themselves safe if they play online. (See, for example, *Minecraft: Grooming dangers for children gaming online*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-38284216>

For help and advice please visit the following NSPCC website, which has a wealth of information on how to support and protect your child when using Minecraft:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/minecraft-a-parents-guide/>

Instagram

We are also aware that some of our children have been using Instagram. In some schools, there are reports that Instagram has been causing some distress, for example, with groups of children posting videos they have taken of other pupils without their consent or others posting negative, inappropriate or disturbing content.

The minimum age for using Instagram is **13** years old and any children at this school are therefore too young to be using the app.

In some cases, pupils worry about what they are seeing on the app, but keep using the app as they worry about being left out if they don't. It is important that all children feel that they can take control and have the confidence to be able to stop using the app if it is upsetting them.

Snapchat

I am sure that you will be aware that there have been concerns about the recent update to Snapchat which now includes a maps feature that enables your child's exact location to be identified by anyone they are Snapchat friends with. It is important for young users to be careful about **who** they share their location with, as it can allow people to build up a picture of where they live, go to school and spend their time.

Given how specific this feature is on Snapchat - giving their location to a precise pinpoint on a map - we would encourage our users not to share their location, especially with people they do not know in person.

There are three settings for sharing locations on the map, these are; Ghost mode, My Friends, and Select Friends. But what do these settings mean?

- **Ghost Mode:** Ghost Mode means that you are the only person who can see your location on the map. Within Ghost Mode you can still see the locations of your friends but they will be unable to see you. This setting will ensure that you have complete control over who knows your location.
- **My Friends:** My Friends means that all of your contacts on Snapchat can see your location. If turning on this setting then it would be important for users to review their Snapchat contacts and also make sure that they never add someone they don't know in person onto Snapchat.
- **Select Friends:** This setting allows users to look through their friend list and then decide which of their friends they want to be able to view their location. This setting gives users the opportunity to control who can view their location.

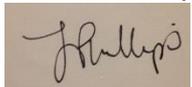
Changing settings: When first opening the Snap Map users get to make a decision of who they want to be able to view their location. Once these settings are in place they can always be changed in Snapchat's settings. This can be done in two ways:

- In the Snapchat screen, click on the Settings (cog) icon > click on 'see my location' > Choose the setting which suits you or
- On the Snap Map, Click on the setting button in the top right of the map > choose the setting which suits you.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that it is our policy to let you know if your child has indicated to us that he or she may have been taking risks in the way that they are using the internet at home – as we are sure that you would want to know, so that you can take suitable steps to help your child to keep themselves safe.

For further information on the way in which we approach the teaching of E-Safety in our school, please visit the Staying Safe & Well section of our school website, which includes a PowerPoint presentation made by our older children on the SMART rules for internet safety: <http://wytonprimaryschool.org.uk/StayingSafe-files/ESafety.htm> .

Yours sincerely,



(Jo Phillips, Head teacher)