



Autumn 2  
December 2025

Welcome to this half-term's  
online safety newsletter.

In addition to this half-termly  
newsletter, do also take a look  
at the updated online safety  
page of our school website for  
additional information:

<https://www.scotts.havering.sc.n.h.uk/pupilsandparents/online-safety>

We wish you all a lovely break  
over the festive period.

Ms Uppal & Miss Batchelor

## LGfL Family Agreement

Digital Family Agreement



The London Grid for Learning (LGfL) have updated their family agreement to support families with discussing and setting clear boundaries around device use and screen time. The new year brings a great opportunity to revisit and reset expectations.

Do take a look here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/digital-family-toolkit/>

# Online Safety Newsletter Scotts Primary School



## What are AI Companions & Chatbots?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly common in children's digital lives. AI chatbots are computer programs designed to communicate like humans. Children may encounter chatbots such as **ChatGPT** (13+) or **My AI on Snapchat** (13+), as well as virtual assistants like **Alexa** or **Siri**. Some AI companion apps, such as **Character.AI**, are rated 18+. A simple search for 'AI Chat' in app stores reveals many apps that are not suitable for children, so checking age ratings is essential.

### Why are they popular?

AI tools are popular because they can provide quick answers and ideas, help with homework and learning and they often feel conversational and easy to talk to. Used appropriately, AI can support learning and curiosity, but children need guidance for safe use.

### Risks to be aware of:

- **Over-reliance on AI**, replacing real-life friendships or problem-solving.
- **Inappropriate content**.
- **Misinformation**, as AI can give incorrect or biased answers.
- **Privacy and data risks**.
- **Image manipulation and deepfakes**, which can be harmful and distressing.

### Parents and carers can help by:

- Checking age ratings on apps and websites.
- Talking openly about AI and its risks.
- Encouraging children to question what they see online.
- Using supervision, plus parental controls on devices and broadband.
- Reminding children to talk to a trusted adult if something worries them.



### Further support and Information:

- **Internet Matters – What is AI?** <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/using-artificial-intelligence/what-is-ai-artificial-intelligence/>
- **Parent Zone – Should you worry if your child has an AI friend?** <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/ai-chatbots>

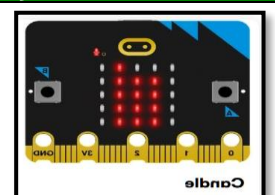
## Some Christmas Computing Holiday Fun



[Google Santa Tracker](#)



[Frozen - Coding](#)



[Micro:bit Coding](#)

## WhatsApp Channels



Users must be at least 13 years old to use *WhatsApp*. If your child uses *WhatsApp*, it is important to be aware of *WhatsApp* Channels. Channels are a one-way broadcast tool used by companies and individuals to send updates to followers.

*WhatsApp* Channels can be found in the Updates tab. From here, users can view a wide range of channels, including some that may not be age-appropriate and could contain adult content.

Currently, it is not possible to switch off access to Channels, and there is no age rating associated with them. This means content must be accessed to fully understand what it contains.

### Further information can be found here:

- *Klicksafe*: <https://www.klicksafe.eu/en/news/was-sind-whatsapp-kanale-und-was-muessen-eltern-beachten>
- *Internet Matters*: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/social-media/whatsapp/>
- *WhatsApp* Help Centre: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/549900560675125>

## Christmas Devices, Gadgets and Screen Time

Christmas can be an exciting time when some children are given or re-gifted devices and gadgets. For any parents or carers looking to purchase new devices or re-gift older devices, *Internet Matters* has some useful guidance on choosing devices, handing down devices, as well as screen time guidelines:

- Tech guide <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/#choose-guide>
- Second hand devices <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/guide-to-hand-me-down-devices/>
- Screen balance <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/>
- Family Toolkit <https://www.internetmatters.org/digital-family-toolkit/>



## ‘Technosaurus’ - Online Safety for Younger Children

The *NSPCC* have created a new resource called ‘Technosaurus’, a friendly dinosaur to assist you in having chats with your child about online safety. This resource is aimed at younger children and includes a book and activity pack (both chargeable). You can find out more here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/techosaurus/>

## What To Do When...? CEOP Guides

*CEOP* Education have published [this poster](#) directing you to the relevant information around six different online situations, on topics such as gaming and inappropriate content. Do take a look here:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/globalassets/professional/resources/wtdw-round-up.pdf>

## Quick Links

<u>Parental Controls</u>	<u>Digital Wellbeing</u>	<u>PEGI Age Ratings</u>	<u>Harmful Content</u>	<u>Commonsense Media</u>	<u>Social Media</u>