

Online Safety while schools are closed.

Dear Parents and Carers

As many children may increase the time they spend online to keep in touch with friends, Hertfordshire constabulary have issued advice regarding keeping young people safe online during school closures.

Please talk to your children and encourage them to be open with you about what they are doing online. Ask your children to share with you the apps and online gaming they enjoy, helping you to understand them and implement parental controls.

For more information visit:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/news-and-appeals/keep-young-people-safe-online-while-schools-are-closed-1587all>

Please remind and talk to your children about the **SMART** Rules to e-Safety.

- **S** encourages young people to be **safe** by not giving out their personal details online
- **M** draws attention to the risks associated with **meeting** someone you only know online
- **A** highlights the risks of **accepting** emails, pictures and text messages from unknown sources
- **R** is a reminder that not all information found online is necessarily **reliable**
- **T** encourages children to **tell** someone if something happens or they meet someone online that makes them feel uncomfortable

Additional information on how to talk to your children about online safety can be found on the **Childnet International** website. On the website you will find a range of resources specifically designed to support children aged 8 to 11, for instance the SMART crew animations. For younger children there is Digi Duck and Smartie the Penguin, online stories for 3 to 7-year olds.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin>

- Additional resources can be found on Childnet International such as:
- How to set up parental controls
- Screen time boundaries
- Activities and videos
- Family online safety agreements

In addition, why not support your child to take the safer internet quiz with Jordan and Perri!

Visit the Nickelodeon website at:

<http://www.nick.co.uk/shows/spongebob-squarepants/quizzes/jordan-and-perris-safer-internet-day-quiz/ip3ygz>

Please find on our schools' website further information regarding e-safety and additional resources can also be found on the **UK Safer Internet** website.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people/resources-3-11>