Online safety at home:
Parents and Carers newsletter
December 2025

In anticipation of lots of technology and devices being at the top of Christmas wish lists, here is another reminder to use the Common-sense media website to guide and inform you on the suitability of all thing's media related. https://www.commonsensemedia.org/
It's helpful for films, books, games and apps – so do check it out as it's free and easy to use whenever you need!

How to stay safe when younger children are exploring the internet?

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube, offering a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment which is suitable for young children. The app is easily accessible and can be downloaded for phones and tablets without needing the YouTube app to be on the device already. Although YouTube Kids is obviously intended to be (and mainly succeeds in being) an extremely child-friendly platform, it can still raise concerns over its advertising policy as well as inappropriate content seeping through the curation process. However, adults can disable the search option, restrict the viewing time and monitor the watch history.

More information?
Parental controls: Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so they shouldn't replace the need for you to support and advise your child using the internet. For more information on setting up parental controls, visit Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters.

Controls explained:

How do I put controls or limits in place?
Phones, tablets, and computers can all be controlled to a degree by either purchasing full versions which limit but do not totally exclude in-app adverts and the like. You can also download various apps for no cost. One such app is: 'Our Pact' and it allows parents to link their phone to set time limits and app restrictions on their children's devices. These can be altered as required and allow the parent or carer to be fully in control and aware of what and when their child assesses technology. Find out more by following the link: https://ourpact.com/

Infant Parents and Carers:
It is also worth being aware that according to Ofcom's most recent research, a large proportion of children are already on-line by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. So, talking about how to be safe online has never been such a high priority.