



Darell Primary School

E-safety Newsletter March 2023



The Hollie App

This app allows you to keep an eye on your child while they are traveling using the Journey feature. Whenever they use this feature, their emergency contacts are informed when they have arrived at their destination. The free version, users can also use this app to get help quickly if they are in danger. If a user is in danger, they hold down the button for 5 seconds to raise an alert, which activates Hollie Guard and automatically sends their location to their designated contacts. Visit their website for further information:

<https://hollieguard.com/>



Is it Safe?

The NSPCC have produced this article discussing the risks associated with using YouTube and the safety settings and features that are available depending on how old your child is and what they do on YouTube. You can access the article here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube/>



Hanni and the Magic Window

Childnet have published a new book titled 'Hanni and the Magic Window'. Aimed at children aged 3-7, the story is about speaking out and getting help if something goes wrong online. It is a terrific book to read at home with your child. Download a copy here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/take-an-adventure-through-online-safety-with-our-new-book-hanni-and-the-magic-window/>



Check the age ratings: Minecraft is rated by PEGI as 7+ or 12+ depending on which game version you are playing. The App store rate it as 9+ and the Google Play store rate it as 10+.

It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Minecraft does include a chat facility, which adds further risks of seeing inappropriate language/content. This can be switched off.

Minecraft remains ever popular and can be a great learning tool that is often used in schools to teach planning skills, recreate famous buildings in 3D and coding. Players use building blocks (a bit like Lego) to create their own worlds.

Which mode?

You can choose between Creative or Survival mode - creative mode removes the survival elements of the game (no mobs appearing at night) so may be a more appropriate mode for your child to play.

What else do I need to be aware of?

- Multiplayer – children can interact with others (including strangers), you can switch this option off within settings or choose to play offline.
- Block and report players – if your child is playing with others, make sure they know how to block and report players within the game.
- Additional purchases – be aware of in app purchases and the purchase of additional items (skin packs) to support (although not needed) game play.

In addition, protect your child's privacy by using a nickname (don't include their age/birth year) rather than their real name for their profile and chat to your child to make sure that when playing online they know not to share personal information. Also, make sure they know they can talk to you or a trusted adult if anybody or anything is making them feel uncomfortable.

Do not forget to make sure you have set up appropriate parental controls on the device your child is using to play Minecraft as well.