Gooseberry Alert 23
Safer Subscribing – How are we influenced online?

Welcome to your **'Gooseberry Alert'**. Please feel free to **share the 'Gooseberry Planet Tips/Thoughts/Discussions of the Week'**. Helping to keep you and your whole school community **Safer Online.**

Gooseberry Student 'Discussion' of the week

The Big Debate:
Take some time offline, to think about the two statements

People you 'follow' online have a responsibility for keeping you and others safer online. Discuss.

People you 'follow' online should be allowed to create, post and share anything they like online. Discuss.

Discuss the following questions to help form your opinion.

- Where might you '**follow**' or '**subscribe**' to someone online?
- **Who do you** follow or subscribe to online and why?
- **How are you** or might you be influenced by what you see online?
- **What responsibilities** do people who post publicly and share online have, to the people who might follow them?
- **Why do you think** that some people deliberately post and share things online that might upset, annoy or provoke other people?
- **Should people be able** to create and share any type of content they like online?
- **What would you do** if you saw content online that amused or upset you?
- **How might you** help yourself form a 'balanced opinion' about something?

Please share with students**.**

Gooseberry Teacher 'Thoughts and Tips' of the week

To help support and promote independent, informed and balanced views and opinions, it is **important for us all to be aware of how and by whom our views, opinions and actions can be influenced**.

Surrounding ourselves with similar views from a limited number sources, opinions and information can prevent us forming balanced views and opinions. This is sometimes referred to as an **'echo chamber'**, where the same ideas, views and opinions are developed, shared and reinforced without any other information that may be opposing.

Encourage discussion amongst colleagues and students about what might influence them online, on social media and who they follow and subscribe to on apps (as appropriate) like YouTube, Twitter etc.

- **How easy is it to be influenced by what you see online?**
- **How can what you see online, have a positive or negative influence?**
- **Where appropriate, are different sources used to help influence and create learning materials?**

Use this as an opportuntiy to **review, explore and better understand the online communities that you, your collagues and students belong to, the types of opnions and views they are being exposed to, what type of content they are viewing and how they might be influenced by what they are hearing and seeing**.

Reinforce with students the **need for using apps and viewing content that is age appropriate and that provides opportutnies for them to form their own balanced and informed opnions and views.**
Please share with staff.

Gooseberry Parent 'Thoughts and Tips' of the week

When forming opinions and views, we are often influenced by what we see, hear, by the people we surround ourselves with and what we experience day to day.

Take a moment to think about the **types of things you see and hear daily online, the types of apps and websites you use and the people you might follow online.**

- **How do you feel about your child being able to see and hear the same things you do online?**

- **Are you getting a positive, balanced and safer experience?**

Take a moment to find out **what apps, games and websites are being used by your child.**

- **Are these age appropriate?**

Find out **who your child is following online.**

- **What kinds of views and opinions they are being exposed to? Is the content they are viewing appropriate?**
- **Are the views and opinions they are hearing, balanced and fair?**

Please share with Parents.

In the news… In the news… In the news… In the news… In the news…

"AdultSwine" Malware

The BBC have reported this week about users unknowingly downloading pornographic malware through some children's apps available on the Google Play store. The "AdultSwine" malware displays explicit pornographic adverts that pop up in apps. Infected apps include add-ons for the hugely popular pocket edition of Minecraft as well as apps themed around familiar Disney characters.

The malware also promotes fake security programs and tries to get people to sign up to expensive services.

Google said it had now removed all the compromised apps from the Play store.

The CheckPoint researchers uncovered the infected apps as well as the code that sends offensive adverts and other offers to victims.

Reviews of infected apps on Google's store warned about the presence of the pop-up adverts.

In a statement, Google said the compromised apps had been removed from the Play store and it had shut down the accounts of the developers that had created them. It added that it would "continue to show strong warnings to anyone that has installed them".

To read the full article: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-42691027

Gooseberry Advice: To help avoid any nasty surprises, always read the reviews of apps, games and websites before downloading them. Get to know your way around the app or play the game yourself first to check that you are happy for your child or other family members to view or play it.

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