IMPORTANT

MPORTANT E-SAFETY MESSAGE

14.11.2017

Dear Parent and Carers,

E-SAFETY

Following a brief e-safety talk today, when children were asking questions at the end, it became clear that some children in the class currently have access to media, games and apps that are recommended for older children. Some of the children said that their parents knew about this and were happy with it.

As Designating Safeguarding Leader for the school it is my responsibility to do my utmost to help all of our children to stay safe on line and my message to the children about the recommended ages of apps, messaging services and web based console games is that they are there because they may:

- contain content that is inappropriate for younger children
- enable contact with older and or unknown individuals
- enable the exchange of inappropriate images/language
- require making decisions that the children are not yet ready to handle
- and …

At our last E-safety presentation for parents and carers the audience were warned that:

Children who register for apps and sites with an 'at least 13 years old' requirement will <u>in only 5 years' time</u> be <u>assumed to be 18 years old</u> as far as internet searches are concerned.

It has also been reported that some of the older children in the school have Instagram accounts.

Is this appropriate?

The first hit when Googling 'age for Instagram' is this:

13 years old

Instagram requires everyone to be at least **13 years old** before they can create an account (in some jurisdictions, this age limit may be higher). If your child is younger than **13** and created an account on Instagram, you can show them how to delete their account.

How do I report a child under the age of 13 on Instagram? | Instagram ...
https://help.instagram.com/517920941588885

SUGGESTED ACTION:

1) Please talk with your children about e-safety and the importance of their reporting anything that they are unsure or concerned about to you.

2) Please follow this link http://www.freshfordschool.org.uk/index.php?page=90 to the Freshford Primary School website's 'WEBLINKS' page. This has a range of useful links to E-Safety websites including:

'App guide for parents:

There are so many apps available, check out the ones that raise some concerns, including

secret or 'vault' apps (Apps that you can hide other apps within).'
http://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-guide/
I encourage you to keep yourself well informed about the recommendations as the
information on this site is continually updated.

I would also recommend talking to other parents about their views on recommended ages
of apps, messaging services and web based console games and their supervision before
agreeing to 'play dates' or 'sleepovers.'

Wishing you a splendid and e-safe year.

Yours,

Andrew Wishart

5 examples to look for

Here are some app icons to look for your on child's device in case you are concerned
about her/him using such an app.

Secret Calculator Folder Free (iOS): this app is one of the more popular ones *(based on
how often their logo is mentioned in articles I've read)* and as you can see from the app
logo, it looks like a calculator app! Enter a code as if you're calculating something and
the app changes into a full fledge storage locker, hidden web browser plus they've
added a "secret" camera option (from the app maker's marketing).

Private Photo Vault (Android, iOS): this app is more or less a clone of the *Secret
Calculate Folder* above but at least it is more upfront about what they are by their
logo. This app contains a built-in unfiltered web browser that users can use so if you
area using a safe browser on your child's device, this would defeat it.

Secret photos KYMS (iOS): from their app description, *"An iPhone calculator that works – and looks! – exactly like any other calculator until you type in your secret passcode. The calculator then turns into a private storage app in which you can hide your most secret photos, videos, notes, and more."* Add an incognito browser that's built-in and your child will be able to hide a lot from you if you do check their device once in a while and you don't know what this app looks like.

Calculator Vault- Gallery Lock (Android): this one is also very clear on hiding photos, videos and more plus lock any app on your Android device. Via their app description: *"Use this calculator vault to **hide pictures, hide photos, hide videos** and use **app lock** secretly inside app".*

Best Secret Folder (iOS): this app truly takes the approach of disguising itself as something it's not – even with its icon! This is also re-enforced with their app description: *"Extremely Hard to Notice Your Best Secret Folder Icon On Your*