



Little Dewchurch C of E Primary School

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Marlbrook Community Primary School



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Headteacher : Tracey A Kneale CBE



26th May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

E-Safety Update

I wanted to write to you to share information that we have received about a potentially dangerous App called Monkey.

It is being described as the app that enables you to have Facetime with random strangers and children as young as 12 years can sign up. For those not aware of 'Facetime' , it is the ability to make a video phone call.

Once you register for the Monkey App, you verify your phone number, age, Snapchat name and whether you are male or female – it then asks you to allow access to your contacts. Once this is done, 'Monkey' will try to connect you with people from across the world of a similar age. When FaceTime has been enabled there's an option onscreen to add the person as a friend on Snapchat.

We feel this is a risk to children because there is no check on the people that are registered and our children have the ability to talk to total strangers who may not be who they say they are.

Whilst I appreciate that our children should not be accessing anything that is for children over the age of 12, it is the look of the app itself that markets itself to younger children. I have included an image below which I am sure you agree, has been developed to appeal to all young children.



Below is a series of advice, mentioned in previous E-Safety updates, but worth repeating:

What can parents/carers do? Ground Rules

Discuss as a family how the internet will be used in your house. Consider what should be kept private online (personal information, photos etc). **Make sure you know what your child is doing online exactly as you would offline.**





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Online Safety

Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or contact. Remember that parental control tools are not always 100% effective and sometimes unsuitable content can get past them, so don't rely on them alone to protect your child.

Location

Locate your computer in a supervised family area. Always supervise the use of webcams and applications which allow voice or video chat. Consider your child's use of other devices that allow internet access such as Mobile Phones and Games Consoles.

Be open

Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet, learn which websites or tools they like to use and why. Learning together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour with your child. Always ensure your child knows how to block or report people online who send nasty or inappropriate messages or content. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply. Look for the CEOP button – website details below. Make sure your child knows to tell an adult they trust if they see something online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.

It's essential to be realistic - banning the internet or technology will not work and it often makes a child less likely to report a problem. Education around safe use is essential.

Websites for more information:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the "Parent/Carer" Section and use the Click "CEOP REPORT" button to seek advice and report online abuse. This website is used at Marlbrook to teach E safety.

www.childnet.com – Visit the 'Know It All' Section for an interactive guide about online safety

www.getsafeonline.org – Free up-to-date Security advice

www.bbc.co.uk/onlinesafety

I hope this information is useful to you in making your children more aware of keeping safe online. If you have any further questions that you wish to discuss please do contact me.

Mr Hughes
E Safety Coordinator

