

Safeguarding Newsletter

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WELCOME

It's been a busy start to the school year again as we seek to return to a familiar and consistent routine. Our aim is to keep our school community safe and I hope you will find the articles in this newsletter useful. As always if you have any concerns about safeguarding issues you can contact me at [Tapton School](#)

Kath Tabaxi

TWITCH

Twitch is a streaming service which is extremely popular among young people. Live streaming on all platforms, including Twitch, is becoming more popular, and there are legitimate concerns. [Childnet](#) have put together a useful article about Twitch: what it is, why it's so popular, the type of content and some useful tips and advice.

you can view the full article [HERE..](#)

NEW INSTAGRAM GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Instagram have released a brand-new guide for parents containing lots of useful information such as:

- Tips for parents.
- Tips for talking to teens.
- Managing account privacy.
- Balancing screen time.
- Filtering offensive comments.
- and much more.

Although the guide is targeted at parents of younger teenagers, we all know that younger children are using Instagram, so at your own discretion you may want to share the guide which can be found [HERE](#).

PASSWORDS - 3 RANDOM WORDS

Passwords play a significant part in cyber security but trying to remember all the passwords for multiple sites is so hard. It's tempting to use the same one on all your accounts but that's not a great idea.

A fundamental rule is this - a long password is a strong password. The longer the better. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have recently updated their guidance called '[3 random words](#)' and it is worth mentioning this to students to create a good digital 'habit' from young child through to adulthood. One of the most popular pages on the NCSC website, nearly 5 years after its first publication, it explains how - by combining three random words - you can create a password that's 'random enough' to keep the bad guys out, but also 'easy enough' for you to remember. Passwords generated from three random words help users to create unique passwords that are strong enough for many purposes, and can be remembered much more easily.

ARE SMART DEVICES SAFE?

Smart devices are the everyday items that connect to the internet. This can include both 'hi-tech' items (think smart speakers, fitness trackers and security cameras), and also standard household items (such as fridges, lightbulbs and doorbells). From virtual assistants like Amazon's Alexa, Apple's Siri and Google Home, to smart light bulbs, kettles, security cameras and thermostats, they are collectively known as the Internet of Things (IoT).

Unlike conventional household items, you can't just switch on a smart device and forget it; you'll need to check a few simple things to protect yourself.

What is the risk from using Smart Devices?

Just like a smartphone, laptop or PC, smart devices can be hacked to leave your data and privacy at risk. Very rarely, devices have been controlled by somebody else managing the device, often to frighten the victim.

- [Children's GPS and fitness trackers \(BBC News\)](#)
- [Security cameras could be hijacked \(BBC News\)](#)
- [Smart home gadgets in domestic abuse warning \(BBC News\)](#)

We are spending more time than ever with the gadgets we have welcomed into our homes – so-called “smart” devices connected to the internet that can be controlled with our voices or via apps on our phones.

You can advice on buying, setting up and using your devices from the National Cyber Security Centre [Here ..](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

We care about all the people in our school community and have recently started several new initiatives in school. As you may know we have a Mental health and Well-being worker in school all the time and any child can be referred to them if they need support. In addition to this since September we have had a key worker from [Door 43](#) based in school so that we can refer any child who needs support. Door 43 is part of [Sheffield Futures](#) which is a young people's charity. They support young people to achieve their full potential in learning, employment and life to secure a positive future. They've been supporting young people in Sheffield for 25 years. Their mental health and wellbeing service is called Door43. It's called this because the team is based at **43** Division Street, in Sheffield city centre. The Door 43 team is made up of Wellbeing Practitioners, who have the skills and experience to help young people with the challenges they're facing. They're a really friendly team, and they're here for all young people in Sheffield.

We also have two youth workers from [Forge Youth](#) who are based in school on two days a week. Forge Youth is a Christian project working with children and young people across Sheffield. They are committed to making a positive difference to children in Sheffield and build safe, encouraging communities where children and young people can belong, explore a faith and other positive life choices allowing them to experience life to the full.

RISK - SMISHING ON THE INCREASE

Phishing is commonly seen within emails and increasingly across social media, including YouTube. It's best described as a scam using social engineering tricks (urgency, fear, panic) to coax you into revealing personal information (account details, name, bank details etc.) for criminal purposes. Smishing is exactly the same but it is conducted via SMS (text message).

Smishing is on the increase and some of the texts are very convincing, I have almost fallen for 1 or 2 myself. The common ones you will see at the moment are related to deliveries (e.g. DPD and Royal Mail parcel deliveries) and as Christmas approaches and we are all ordering more online, it's easy to think the text may be genuine.

It's important to make students aware of this, particularly older students who will undoubtedly be ordering online. There's some further information on the Which website [HERE](#) and a short guide on how to spot a messaging scam [HERE](#).

KEEP CHILDREN SAFE IN SPORT

The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) is part of the [NSPCC](#) and is funded by [Sport England](#), [Sport Northern Ireland](#), [Sport Wales](#) and [UK Sport](#).

Parents play an important role in their child's sporting life, both when things are going well and by supporting them if something's wrong.

Your child might come to you with concerns about something that's happened to them or something they've witnessed, in which case it's important for you to address these concerns and raise the alarm with the right people.

If you're worried that your child is being abused or put at risk during sports activities, it's vital that you talk to someone. If you're unsure who to speak to, the [NSPCC helpline](#) can support you and advise you on what to do next - call **0808 800 5000**

Every club should have [procedures in place](#) for dealing with concerns, and you can ask to see these. You can get more help and information [here ...](#)