<u>I-Vengers Parent Newsletter Spring 1 2025 - 2026</u>

Dear Parents / Carers

This is the third of a half-termly letter that we are sending home to keep you informed about online safety. At school we follow a program called 'I-Vengers'. This involves children from throughout school helping each other to keep up to date with the latest news. This year's group, pictured below, gave a talk to the school on Tuesday about how to stay safe online.

CEOP

We also subscribe to a newsletter from Alan Mackenzie. He always has lots of ideas to help keep everyone safe online. This month he has suggested the following websites: -
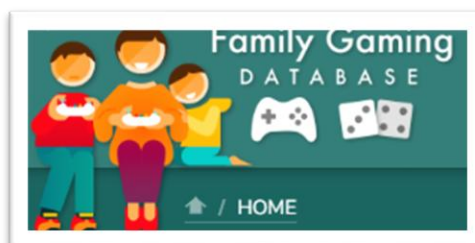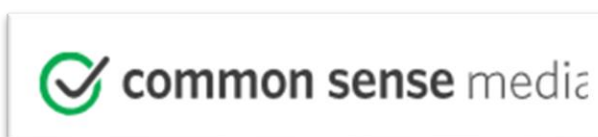
For Parents – Set Up Safe Guide

Once again Internet Matters have put together a brilliant new resource for parents and carers. This time it's a Set Up Safe guide which simplifies all the confusing tech/device settings advising that online safety works best when it's shaped around how children actually use their devices, it's all about 'layering'.

For Parents - Family Gaming Database
When it comes to app and games reviews one of the resources I consistently share during parents talks is Common Sense Media who have thousands of unbiased and up-to-date reviews which can be really helpful for parents over and above age ratings. But when it comes to games specifically there's an equally great site which is often overlooked called The Family Gaming Database. This is a fantastic resource with a plethora of information for families and currently 3,485 video games and 197 board games already reviewed.

For Parents – Second-Hand devices

Often when children get their first or subsequent devices, particularly mobile phones, it's a hand-me-down, for example when a parent gets a new device on contract. This can be a real positive as mobile devices are very expensive, and the latest/greatest devices often have very limited additional functionality over older devices. But it's important these devices are configured correctly for younger users. Thankfully Internet Matters have a full guide to help parents navigate all the different features and settings, plus how to choose the right second-hand device, safety concerns and much more.

Yours sincerely   Mr Stoppard – Computing Lead