

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, we circulate a monthly Online Safety Newsletter, this month's is very topical and I strongly encourage you to read it - I was about to write to you about my concerns over online gaming. At school, we are increasingly dealing with friendship issues that have come about due to online gaming outside of school. This is very difficult for us to deal with in school as we have no control over preventing it. Games such as Roblox and Fortnite have age recommendations of 12 or 13. The content of these games, in particular, is not appropriate for primary school age children. In addition, children of this age do not have the social and emotional development to handle friendships in the abstract form online. It is usual for children to fall out or bicker; however, in school there is always an adult to mediate and help resolve issues quickly before they escalate - this is not always the case when children are playing online.

I would urge you take heed to the age recommendations of games and if your child is playing online with other people to always ensure that there is an adult in the room with them, to monitor interactions. Online addiction is certainly real; it is really important that you monitor and restrict your child's online usage so they have other interests beyond gaming, and find joy and interest in other activities.

Best wishes

Miss Ellis