



INTERNET SAFETY

As you know it is summer time and the internet is a very popular activity in the holidays. However, do you really know the internet as well as you think? This article is about how to be safe on the internet having fun.

Below are 3 useful internet safety websites that Mano and I (Kerry) checked out and commented on. Why don't you check them out and see what you think. HAVE FUN!!



www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Kerry:

This website is tailored to different age groups to make it easy for every one to understand. It gives really good advice and tips on internet safety and also has links to other useful websites.

Mano:

I like the fact that there are educational games for young people where they can have fun playing games whilst learning how to be safe on the internet at the same time.



www.kidsmart.org.uk

Mano:

It has easy access to every thing you need to know. The acronym 'S.M.A.R.T.' stands for Safe, Meetings, Accepting, Reliable and Tell. It's very easy and there are simple steps to remember on how to stay safe. If you don't find the information you are looking for you can always use the links to other staying safe online websites.

Kerry:

This website has an icon to translate the website into other languages so others can understand. There's a section where it can translate what 'S.M.A.R.T' means into BSL (British Sign Language). There is also a competition page.



www.chatdanger.com

Kerry:

The way the website is set up is good. It's well presented and colourful. This website gives you advice on a range of real life situations. Other young people share their bad experiences. Read a true story from this website.

Mano:

They have a section called cyber space which teaches young people how to chat, use email, text and be safe online generally. It's really easy to use and find your way around. It is also colourful which makes it stand out.

True stories from chat danger

"I was chatting with a really sweet boy for a long time. Then he asked if he could have my email address. I said ok, and I gave it to him. Some days later he sent me some nasty pictures – I wrote back to him saying I didn't want to write to him anymore because he had sent me such disgusting images. But he wouldn't stop. He kept on writing me emails! I got really afraid and I didn't know what to do. I told an appropriate adult, and they were the ones who told me to delete my account and get a new one".

"Chris is 15 and has just got home from school on a Friday night and is really miserable. He has just split up with his girlfriend Maria. When they were together they sent each other teasing pictures. Maria was feeling bitter and sent a couple to her friend, who then sent it to others and now it is all around school and to make it worse his teacher has found out about it. They now both have to go and see their teacher with their parents on Monday. Chris is horrified that something so personal and fun has now escalated into this humiliation. Chris fears that she may have posted the pictures on her blog too and that this means they could be all over the net."



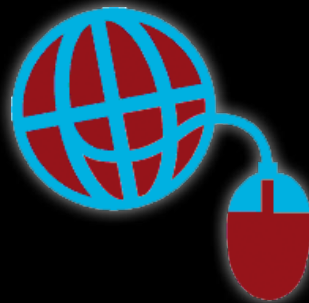
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Kerry and I (Mano) have put together some tips so that you can stay safe whilst on the internet including chat rooms.

As you may all know sometimes the internet can be dangerous if not used properly and safely. So here are some of our useful tips....



1. Never give out your personal details e.g: name, address, telephone number or anything that's personal to you.
2. Don't give people you don't know your email
3. Always tell an appropriate adult when you're on the internet
4. Never agree to go and meet someone without an adult
5. Always make sure you keep your user name and password to yourself
6. If people are sending you inappropriate pictures or nasty messages tell an appropriate adult asap
7. Always try and stick to talking or messaging people you know.
8. Not everyone on the internet is who they say they are.
9. When having a group conversation using instant messenger remember that just because your friend has added someone to the discussion it doesn't mean you know them so you shouldn't add them or give them personal information about yourself.



Make sure you surf the internet safely whilst having a wonderful summer!!