



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



Birches Online Safety

We are very excited to be starting our learning journey through Microsoft TEAMS this week, but this can bring new challenges for both children and parents! Here are some safety tips for parents and carers taken from The National Online Safety website, there is a hyperlink for the site attached to this picture –

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips for Parents & Carers

- BLOCK USERS**
If your child is receiving inappropriate messages or finds themselves being harassed or abused on Teams, they can block these contacts from the privacy control in the settings menu. To add an extra layer of protection, you can also block contacts whom hide their ID to protect children from communicating with people they don't know.
- PROTECT PERSONAL INFO**
It's a good idea to talk to your child about the importance of keeping their personal information private and secure. Children should only give out the minimum information they need to when creating an account and understand that if other people request their personal details from them, they should avoid providing it and report any concerns to a trusted adult.
- ENABLE BACKGROUND BLUR**
To help protect your privacy during a video call or live stream, it may be a good idea to blur the background or even add a background effect. This can easily be done by clicking 'Background effects' before joining a meeting after which you'll have the option to blur your background, replace your background with one of the images provided or upload and use an image of your own.
- UPDATE COMPUTER SECURITY**
It's important to ensure you perform regular computer and software updates, as these patches often improve security flaws and minimise your vulnerability to cyberattacks. Having your own computer security or anti-malware software is another level of defence in minimising the chances of an attack from viruses, malware and other harmful programs. Ensure this is updated everyday so that it is able to protect you against the very latest threats.
- TALK ABOUT RISKS**
As a parent, talking to your child and making them aware of the risks of working and communicating online can help them to be more digitally resilient. Perhaps outline a set of agreed do's and don'ts and try to ensure young people know what to do if they are made to feel uncomfortable or experience any negative behaviour or activity.
- AVOID VIDEO/AUDIO**
It's always a good idea to turn off your audio during live group calls when not in use. This can easily be done by muting the mic and will avoid others hearing anything personal in the background at home or at school. Similarly, if possible, try to encourage children to avoid using video call to help guard against any privacy concerns and limit the risks of viewing anything inappropriate or unsettling.

Meet our expert
Emma Davis is a cyber security expert and former ICT teacher. She delivers cyber awareness training to organisations nationally and has extensive knowledge and experience of managing how children access services and apps online.

SOURCES:
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>
<https://www.microsoft.com>
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com **Twitter - @natonlinesafety** **Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety** **Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety**

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.06.2020

Please remember that you have agreed to the code of conduct for online/remote learning.

To remind yourself of this Code of Conduct click this link <http://www.birches.staffs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Online-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

To see our Remote Teaching and learning policy click this link <http://www.birches.staffs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Remote-Teaching-and-Learning-Policy-Jauary-2021.pdf>



If you would like to share any information or you need further support then do not hesitate to contact Mrs Cain or your child's class teacher.

Barefoot Computing Live Lessons - 'Barefoot Live'

There will be a series of three 30-minute live sessions featuring key Barefoot computing activities which will be modelled for pupils to complete at home or in school. The sessions will be hosted on Barefoot's YouTube channel. Pupils can join live or view the recordings in their own time! The second date is this Tuesday and the links will provide full descriptions and the resources required:

1:30pm, 2nd February - [Blast off – coding in Scratch](#) (suitable for ages 9 – 11)