Corbets Tey School

Technology and Online Safety Newsletter

Edition Number: 7   **Month: October 2017**

The Department for Education guidance document **Keeping Children Safe in Education (May 2016 updated Sept 2016)** sets out the legal duties with which schools and colleges must comply in order to keep children safe including keeping safe online.

We are aware of the special challenges for our parents regarding online safety. We want to work in partnership with you to identify where additional support and information is needed and how to use this to protect your children and young people. This regular newsletter will help to keep you aware of developments in the use of technology in the school and share the latest online safety information available.

Google Sharing

We have begun a pilot in one class in the school in extending ways to share photos and video of class activities and to demonstrate progress to parents via Google Drive.

Google Drive is a cloud-based storage system, which is encrypted using SSL and so provides a secure way for us to save and share photos, videos and other files to parent relating to their child. Files in Google Drive can be reached from any smartphone, tablet, or computer. Files in Drive are private and can only be seen by people we give permission to access. Once set up you would be able to view and comment on any of your child's shared files enabling a constructive 2-way communication and collaboration between school and home.

In order to be able to share files we will need parents/carers to set up a Google Drive account and then we can then share a folder to place photos and videos. We can then add new photos and other documents over the school year which will provide an insight into a child's learning activities while at school. As videos and images may contain more than one child in them, to take part we would need agreement that your child's image may be shared with other parents. But it will only ever be within your child's class and via their secure Google Drives.

We will advise on progress in the pilot class and how and when we intend to extend this across the school in due course.

Parent/Carer Computing Morning

The school is planning a Computing Morning for parents in the Spring Term 2018 where we will be holding a round-robin type of demonstration to show parents the computing resources that we have in the school and how we are using them within teaching and learning in the school. We will be including advice and support around online safety and will signpost the free resources that are available to families to use at home that will support learning such as London Grid For Learning SEND online resources and Clicker 7 software.
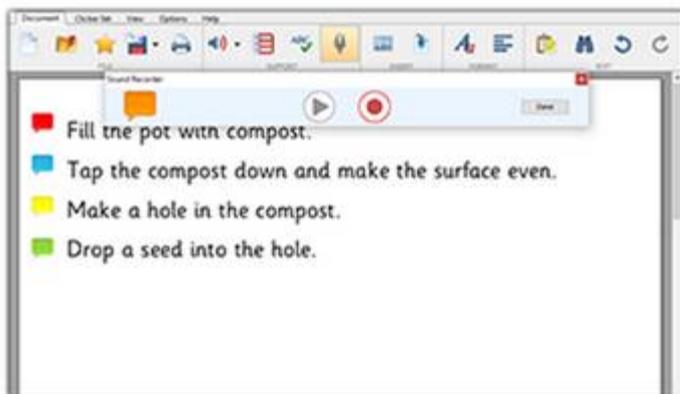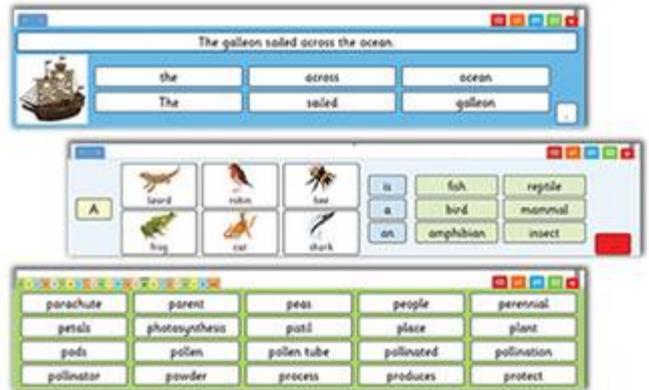
Clicker at Home

Clicker is a supportive writing tool for those who are just starting to write to more advanced writers who need additional support. The built-in writing support tools and age-appropriate interface enable children to write independently whatever their level. Writing with Clicker is a child-friendly experience from the start.

When a full stop is entered, Clicker automatically reads out the completed sentence, so children hear what they've written and make corrections themselves.

Clicker Sets give learners point-and-click access to whole words, phrases, and pictures. Sentence Sets, Connect Sets, and Word Banks support writing at all levels, and creating and editing sets is easy to do.
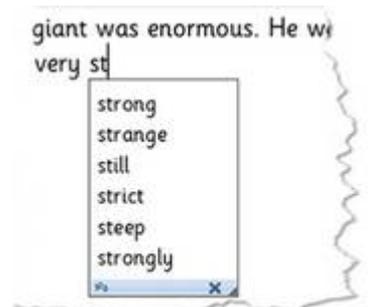

Voice Notes enables pupils to record their own audio notes before they write. This gives them an opportunity to rehearse their sentences, and offers a powerful way for children to capture their initial thoughts and ideas.

Clicker's built-in predictor, upgraded for version 7, improves the productivity of struggling spellers and

encourages all pupils to use more adventurous vocabulary.

The school has purchased a Clicker 7 OneSchool Site License, which includes home access for learners. So, we are pleased to be able to provide a Single Computer License for all parents who would like to use this on a home computer.
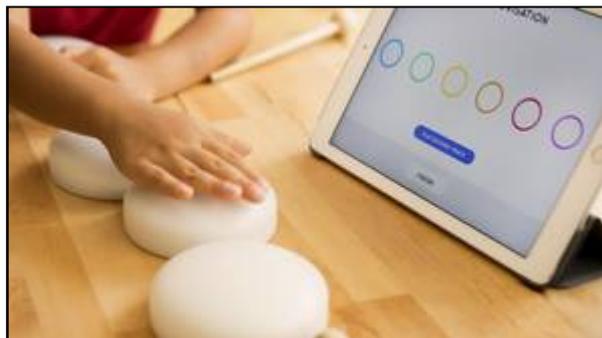
Please contact Sue Cumbers if you would like a serial number and the instructions to install this software or if you would like to arrange to come into school to learn more about how it could support your child and/or how to use it.

You Tube Video for Parents - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuE5VKEjkmk

Cosmo

The school has recently purchased a set of six Cosmo units (big buttons) which lights up, changes colour and turns on sounds and music to engage pupils in activities to encourage development of cause and effect, turn taking, expressing preferences, gross and visuo-motor control and spatial awareness, auditory perception, auditory & visual discrimination, joint attention, collaboration, musical self-expression and improvisation, etc.

There are so many games included with the iPad controller app and we are having fun, trying out all of the different activities in different classes. We have seen some lovely interaction where groups of children work together to create an orchestra of music while developing their collaboration, attention, turn taking, following instructions and with pure positive engagement to the activity. Other children benefit from a more 1:1 approach learning cause and effect and attention skills.

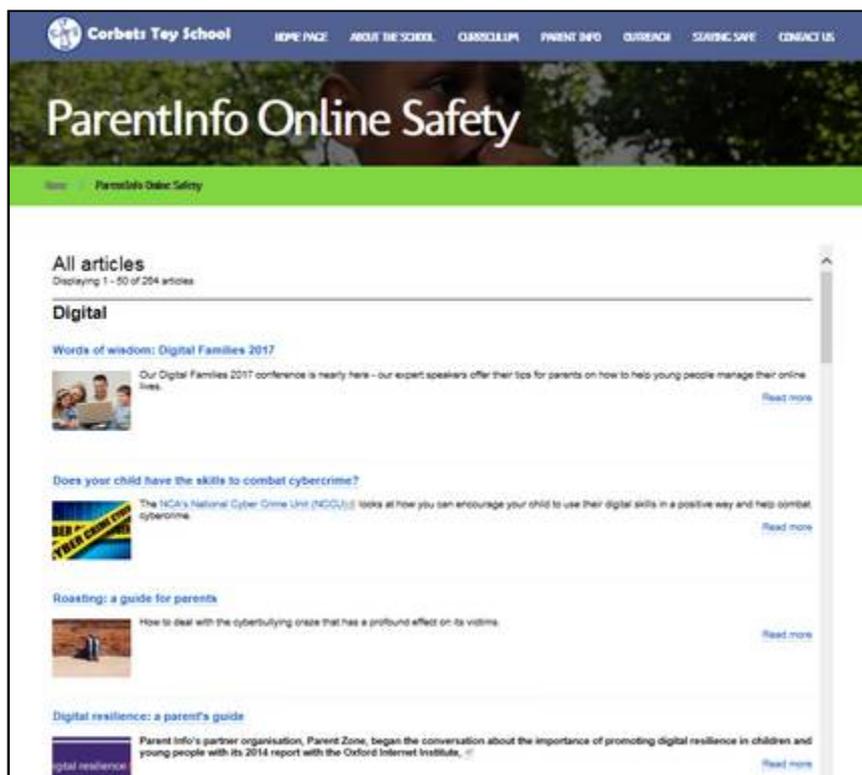There is a video explaining the concept of Cosmo and how it can be used on http://www.filisia-interfaces.com/#single/0

Our school website includes a **'Parent info Online Safety'** page, which provides an RSS feed with constantly updated articles of information on a wide range of subject matter to help parents help their children be discriminating, web-literate and resilient.

This covers a range of different issues that parent face and have a dedicated section dealing with issues specific to special needs children and their families.

Please see the following link to access this. **http://www.corbetsteyschool.org.uk/articles-from-parentinfo**

Online Safety

We realise that the risks to many of our children are different to the online risks that other children face as they are growing up. It is difficult to recognise the dangers for children and young people who are not at a stage where they are able to search independently on the Internet or who require a high level of support to use technology. They may not have the awareness to know that the online material they are looking at is inappropriate.   Some of the online safety advice may seem irrelevant for your child and this was the message that was received when we carried out an online safety survey back in 2016.

However with recent and rapid positive developments in technology such as the introduction of touch screen devices, increasing portability and accessibility can also mean that young children or those with learning and physical disabilities can inadvertently reach parts of the Internet that you may prefer them not to. It is therefore important to ensure that an appropriate level of supervision is in place, that exposure to inappropriate material is discouraged or blocked and that history of internet use is monitored regularly to identify where interventions may be needed.

As parents/carers, you will know how likely it is for your child to access content that may upset/worry them and it is important that if this does happen that they know to tell you or someone else they trust. However if they are unaware of the unsuitable nature of the online material that they may see then they are reliant on those around them to be aware of what is being accessed and to put measures in place to protect them from this.

Are you able to be in the same room when your child is using laptops, tablets or games consoles? Some very innocent appearing you tube videos can lead to links to more dubious videos with voice overs that make it very inappropriate for young ears. This can be easily accessed by one accidental swipe and it is important for an adult to be present to identify that this may not be a video that you want your child to see/hear. If you are not always in the same room and your child has been on a tablet or a laptop, can you look at the history of what they have been accessing or use the back button to check what videos and contact has been viewed?

These are basic suggestions to help keep your children safe. Other more general advice is also available such as this excerpt from ***https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Parental-controls/***

What do parental controls do?
These controls are designed to help parents and carers manage their child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so they don't replace the need for adults to support and advise children using the internet.

What can controls be used for?
Controls can either be for a device like a games console, or for a network such as your home broadband. The way to access device controls can vary according to the manufacturer.   They can offer varying types of protection, from filtering out adult content from search results to preventing your child from buying things when playing games.   You can generally find instructions on how to set these controls up on the manufacturer's website or use the Internet Matters app for help. These settings will apply whether the device is being used in your home or outside – but it's easy for them to be switched off, so talk to your child about trust and responsibility, making sure they understand the importance of why you have put the settings in place. Most games consoles come with settings, which can be put in place for either the device itself or the games platform.   It's easy to forget that games consoles allow players to connect to the internet and talk to people all over the world so setting controls on devices and the platform itself (such as X Box) is important. Broadband and network filters generally come free with your service. These can be used to prevent material coming into your home. For example, you could restrict anything with a horror or sexual content being accessible via your home broadband.   Instructions for accessing these filters can be found on the service providers' websites – look at the bottom of the page to find the "help" or "security" page.

Online controls
Search engines such as Google, Yahoo and Bing allow users to filter out certain types of search results. This means you can reduce the risk of your child seeing adult content like pornography,   or set limits on the time they spend online. Look for the cogwheel "settings" symbol where you will find the options for each provider. You can also encourage your child to use safer search facilities, such as SafeSearch Kids from Google or iPad apps such as YouTube Kids.

Support sites

UK safer internet centre
https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

LGfL Online Safety http://os.lgfl.net

Childnet http://www.childnet.com/

NSPCC https://www.nspcc.org.uk/

Parentzone https://parentzone.org.uk/