Reception
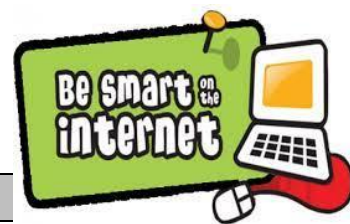

Computing Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents,

As part of our on-going efforts to keep you up to date with what your child will be learning we have put together a Computing newsletter giving you an over view the computing skills we will be covering in Reception, along with some useful tips and websites to help you support your child at home.

Computing is not explicitly mentioned as part of the England EYFS curriculum, however, many topics can be explored using technology to produce creative work and solve problems. Throughout the year your child will be covering many key skills in computing. These skills will be revisited in through a variety of activities, programs and Apps over the year, linked to the themes that we are exploring.

Reception Computing Skills

Mouse and Trackpad Skills – using Mini Mash, Maths City and other Apps
• This includes clicking, navigating using the movement of the mouse and dragging and dropping.
• Activities that aim to support children in developing the hand-eye coordination skills and fine-motor required to operate a mouse effectively.
• A typical laptop trackpad is also introduced when the children are ready.

Keyboard Skills – using 2Create a Story, 2Count
• This includes simple typing, capital letters and function keys such as 'enter'.

Drawing skills – using 2Paint
• This includes choosing pens and style and composing drawn images on screen.
• The children use an iPad as well as a mouse to enable them to mark make using touch.

Technology Around Us
• The children explore everyday technology through role-play.

Hardware
• Introduces knowledge about the parts of a computer and iPad and how to look after equipment.

Safety and Privacy
• Through PSHE sessions we aim lay the foundations for online safety awareness.
• We introduce the idea of ownership and privacy.
• We discuss how to recognise when you are not comfortable with something.
• We discuss who the children can tell if they see or hear something they are unsure of
• We introduce the idea of how to say no to something
• Keeping healthy; link to screen time

Using Mini Mash/Purple Mash with an Individual Login
• The children learn how to login and navigate Mini Mash using individual accounts. This can be used for home learning or as part of their progression in school. The children will receive their passwords for Purple Mash after half term.

Useful Websites and Apps

Throughout the year we use a range of Apps and websites with the children for activities, research and games. Here is a selection of some of the ones we recommend:

Apps:

1-Minute Maths White Rose Education Services Limited

A free app that that helps children build number confidence & fluency.

BlobbleWrite - Leafcutter Studios Ltd

Twinkl Formation & Handwriting Twinkl Formation & Handwriting on the App Store (apple.com) Both apps focus on developing hand-eye coordination by introducing children to letter formation through tracing and copying.

Websites:

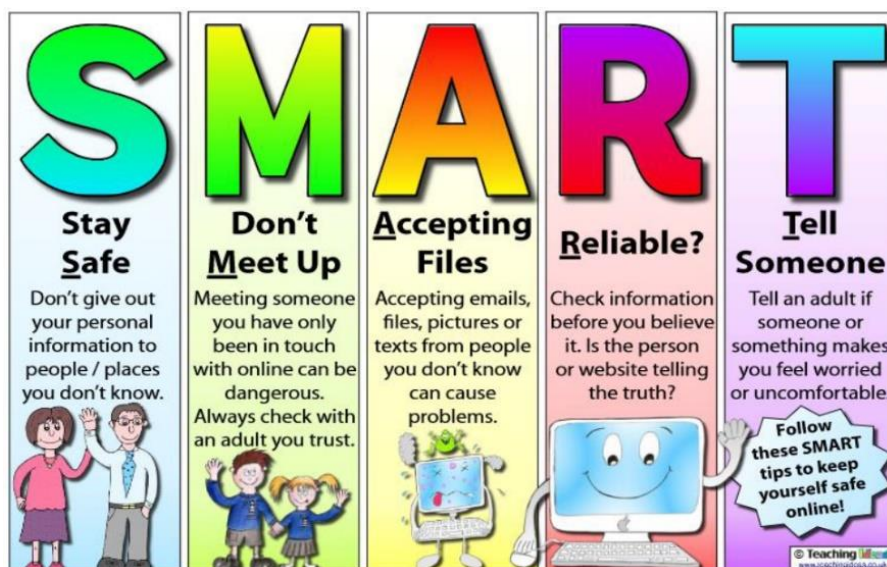KidRex - Kid Safe Search Engine - Now powered by Alarms.org

https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies

https://sooperbooks.com/ - Story books to read and listen to.
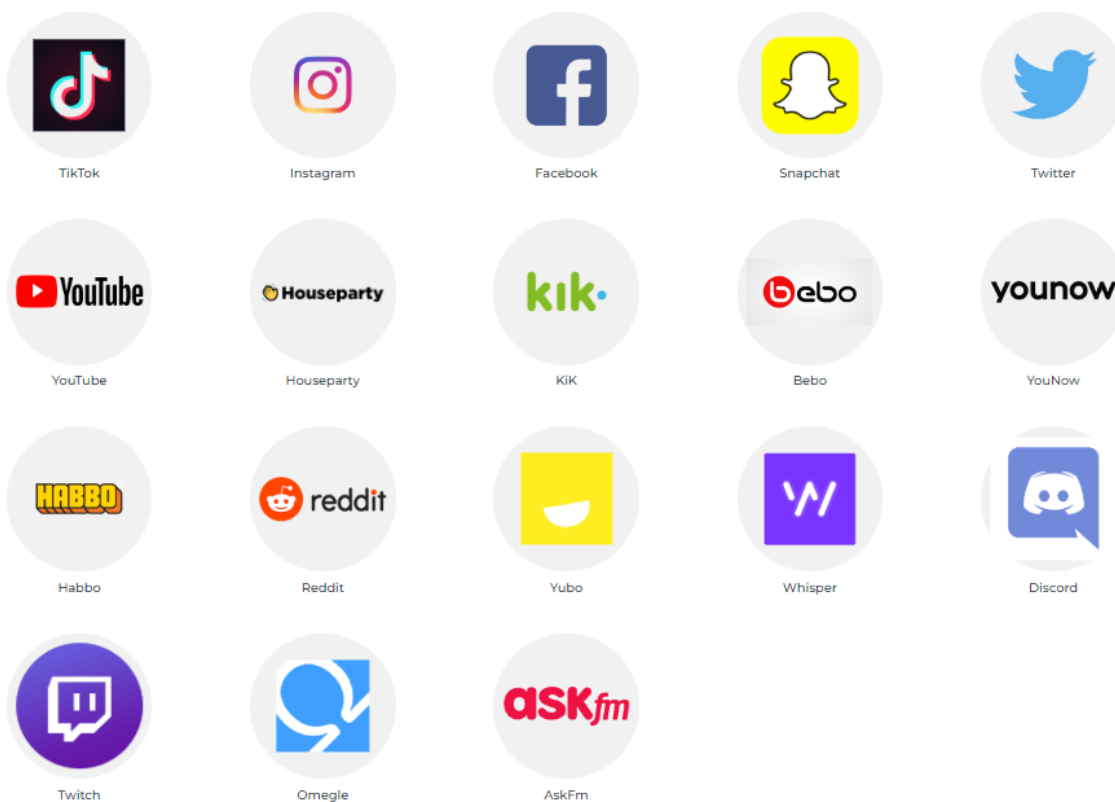
https://www.purplemash.com/login/#/
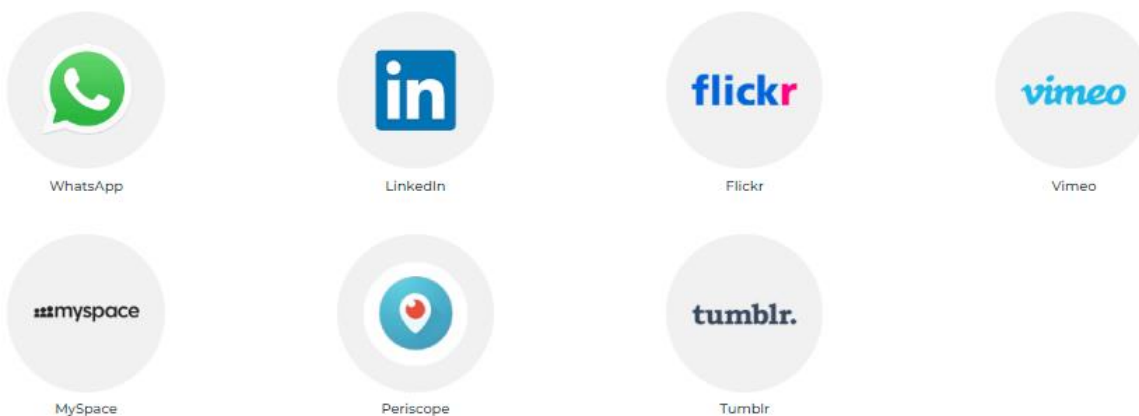
We teach our children to be safe...

When using these sites, we are always aware of the need to keep our children safe. Within all lessons we discuss the need to question what it is we are researching and to challenge what the internet tells us (looking for further reinforcement of the information given to prove its authenticity). We follow the SMART acronym:

S	M	A	R	T
Stay Safe	**Don't Meet Up**	**Accepting Files**	**Reliable?**	**Tell Someone**
Don't give out your personal information to people / places you don't know.	Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Always check with an adult you trust.	Accepting emails, files, pictures or texts from people you don't know can cause problems.	Check information before you believe it. Is the person or website telling the truth?	Tell an adult if someone or something makes you feel worried or uncomfortable.

Follow these SMART tips to keep yourself safe online!

© Teaching Ideas

Age 14+

TikTok · Instagram · Facebook · Snapchat · Twitter
YouTube · Houseparty · KiK · Bebo · YouNow
Habbo · Reddit · Yubo · Whisper · Discord
Twitch · Omegle · AskFm

Age 16 +

WhatsApp · LinkedIn · Flickr · Vimeo
MySpace · Periscope · Tumblr

Keeping our children safe whilst they are online is high on the national education agenda – keeping up to date with the websites, APPS and games they can access can be difficult. To help we have put together a list of websites that you might find helpful. They are full of good advice and tips.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety
https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/
https://www.childnet.com/