

St John's Primary School and Nursery



National Support School
designated by



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Dear Parents and Carers,

ONLINE SAFETY – YEAR 1

This week, we have been learning about safely searching the internet. We have learnt how to use the alphabet to help us search for things online, whilst always being monitored by our grown-ups. We looked at websites that use the alphabet to direct the website. We then made our own picture dictionary. We grouped the pictures and alphabetised them to create our very own festive Christmas picture dictionary.

From 1C and Miss Cossins

Common Sense on Smart Searching



What's the Issue?

“Let’s google dinosaurs.” Sound familiar? Searching the web is so commonplace that even young children know what it means to “google”. However, when your children really need to do research for school – or dive deeper into any topic – it helps to know some strategies for improving their results.

Smart searching online can make a huge difference in the quality and relevance of the content your children find on the internet. But it takes a bit of know-how to improve the chances of getting back the information they’re looking for. You can help your child search smarter – and waste less time – by helping them search like a pro.

Why Does It Matter?

Everyone knows there’s a huge amount of information on the internet. But only a tiny fraction of this information will apply to your child’s needs. Although most children know how to type a keyword into Google, they may not understand that there are many ways to conduct a search, and that some are better than others.

Different search engines work differently. So, if your family typically uses Google, you’ll discover a whole host of additional information by using search engines such as Bing, Ask and Yahoo. Another kind of search engine is called a “meta-search engine”, which sends keywords to several different search engines at once.

Finally, the links that come up in searches may have some strings attached – to advertisers. Regular keyword searches might yield anything from an advertisement to a sponsored link (basically a different kind of ad). Children can spend a lot of time in front of ads if they are not sure how to select the best search results.

common sense says

Search together with young children. Younger children have a more difficult time searching and making sense of their search results. Your guidance will help them get the results they’re looking for.

Consider using safer search settings. Even typing innocent keywords into a search engine may yield search results you don’t want your children to see. If you decide not to turn on filters, then you may want to keep an eye on your kids during their search process.

Choose search terms carefully. The most precise words will yield the best results.

Add more words to narrow a search. As kids get further into their search, they may want to narrow their results. For example, there’s a big difference between “apple” and “red delicious apples history United States”.

Use synonyms. If children can’t find what they’re looking for, encourage them to try keywords that mean the same thing.

Point out sponsored links. These links often appear at the top of a search result list to encourage users to click on them first; they’re usually labelled as sponsored. Remember that sponsored equals advertising.

A-B-C Searching

* DID YOU KNOW ...

One way to find things online is to use a "search engine," such as Google, which lets you look all over the Internet for things you want to know more about. The first search engine was called Archie!

Word Search

e	l	u	s	p	a	c	t
e	s	e	p	p	r	e	h
m	e	h	r	e	n	a	s
a	e	e	a	r	c	a	i
i	r	e	e	e	t	a	l
l	h	t	r	i	a	r	b
h	n	r	m	e	a	r	u
i	s	e	a	r	c	h	p

publish internet search email time capsule

* WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Can the Internet help you find information?

1. Family Activity

Choose a favorite animal you would like to learn more about. You can use the alphabet to search for more information about that animal online. First, draw a picture of the animal and write the letter the animal starts with (for example, Z for zebra).

* DO YOU REMEMBER ...

How you can use the alphabet to find things online?

2. Tech It Up!

With a family member, use an online picture dictionary such as the Photographic Dictionary (<https://photographicdictionary.com/letter>) to search by letter for more information about your animal!

3. Common Sense Says ...

There are lots of ways to search for information on the Internet; some of them are designed especially for children. "Directory sites" let you search for information by looking up the first letter of a word. For example, information about "dogs" would be listed under D.