**Please edit the following text / delete as appropriate. Feel free to paste into your school letterhead / add your logo and share with parents in any way.**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**New devices for Christmas? How to keep children safe**

Some of our students may be lucky enough to receive new devices, games consoles and phones for Christmas. Most others will have access to an internet-enabled device, in one way or another. We want to ensure that everyone in our school community has a safe Christmas holiday, online and beyond.

We encourage the positive use of technology at school and often talk about the fun of going online, but we also discuss the scary things that can happen too. So, if your child is getting a new device or will be accessing a shared/existing device over the holidays, have a think about the following, ideally ***before*** they access the device/s:

* Have you set up parental controls on your broadband connection to limit access to inappropriate content?
* Have you set up parental controls on the actual device (phone/tablet/laptop/watch etc.)?
* Have you set up controls on the apps/games your child is going to access?
* Have you spoken to your child about any agreed boundaries? E.g. screen time limits, what sites/apps/games to access (or not), where to leave devices at night, screen-free times of the day etc.
* Have you spoken to your child about what they do online, so you can better understand their online activity and any potential risks, and help them accordingly?
* Have you spoken to your child about what they can do if the see anything online that worries or upsets them?
* Are the games, TV series and films (including on Netflix/Disney+/AppleTV etc.) that your child will access, appropriate for their age? All of these have age ratings linked to their content, not their difficulty. Common Sense Media ([commonsensemedia.org](https://commonsensemedia.org)) can help you to know which games/apps/TV programmes are appropriate for your child.

If you need support with any of the above, have a look at [parentsafe.lgfl.net](https://parentsafe.lgfl.net) for lots of advice and support, including advice about parental controls.

Remember, many children experience harm online as a result of being naturally curious or sociable, or as a result of what other people do or say to them. Consequently, all children can be at risk, and so it is important that we are proactive about the above safety tips for all children.

**[ You may want to add information and a link to any policies or school web links to signpost parents too, and remind parents who they can talk to in school for support ]**