

06 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the current environment, many of us are using different ways to try and keep in touch with our friends and family. One app that has risen in popularity is Houseparty which has gained the number I spot on the App store after becoming one of the most downloaded apps since social isolation was introduced. Billed as a 'face to face social network', the platform launched in 2016 but isn't as widely known as Facebook, WhatsApp or Snapchat. It has been brought to my attention that this app can be extremely dangerous so I have attached a guide for parents and carers to help you understand exactly what Houseparty is all about with some guidance for using it safely if absolutely necessary. I have also attached a guide for parents and carers with top tips for remote learning. These guides can also be found on our Online Safety page of the website (see information below).

Obviously, at this time, there is going to be an increased use of screens and the internet and Online Safety is therefore more important than ever. If you click on our Online Safety page on the website, <u>https://www.britanniaprimary.co.uk/page/online-safety/53953</u>, there are lots of useful guides and tips on there also. The Online Safety page can be found under the purple 'Parents' tab.

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There are a wealth of websites, guides etc on here which are useful to support your child with keeping themselves safe online, not just during this time, but always when they are using the internet.

If you wish to contact me at all, then please email me. My email address is below.

Many thanks,

Miss Connolly

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