

Cann Hall Primary School

Constable Avenue, Clacton, Essex CO16 8DA

Tel: 01255 420603

Email: chcontact@compassps.uk

Website: www.cannhall.compassps.uk

Head Teacher:

Sarah Crookes

Deputy Head Teacher:

Wendy Byrne



Wednesday 20th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

From everyone here at Cann Hall, we wish you all a very...



Thank you for joining us on the playground this afternoon for some Christmas singing and for supporting all our other events over the last few weeks. The children had a wonderful time!



Setting Up Parental Controls on New Devices over Christmas

Seven out of ten parents use technical controls on their child's devices to manage access to content. Such safeguards can be an enormous asset: helping parents and carers to manage what their child might encounter online, while allowing young people to happily use their new gizmo to start exploring the digital world.

Though extremely useful once in place, such parental controls vary from device to device and can often be confusing or difficult to set up. This poster below outlines what defences are available on some of the most popular devices around: advice that will probably come in particularly handy at this time of year!

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At myaccount.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time Settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Bobby Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which? PC and TechRadar. He's appeared regularly on a host of radio and television programmes, including BBC Newsnight, Radio 4's Law and the TV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.

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Here are some 'festive' homework ideas for your children to complete, if they want to, over the Christmas break.

Pobble presents...

The best festive homework ever!

The most essential thing is have lots of festive fun!

Here's your homework for the Christmas holidays.
How many can you do?

- 1 Write a letter to Santa's elves, it's usually Santa that gets all the post!
- 2 Can you design a Christmas card and send it to your favourite person?
- 3 Make a festive decoration for around the house or to hang on the tree.
- 4 Create a homemade gift and give it to a friend or family member.
- 5 Make a list of things you really want to learn or achieve in the New Year. Remember to write a note to yourself and pack it away with the decorations for you to find next year.
- 6 Have a dance party in the living room to your favourite festive songs.
- 7 Can you find out about Christmas in another country? How does it differ to Christmas in yours?
- 8 Can you make a Christmas tree out of something different? Lego, plasticine, the choice is yours!
- 9 Can you write your own Christmas song or rap, and perform it to your family?
- 10 Have a meal with your family and talk about your favourite memories of this year and the best things that happened to you.
- 11 If you're lucky enough to receive Christmas presents, write thank you notes and send them. Can you include something you loved about the gift?
- 12 Birds can get very hungry at this time of year. Can you make a festive bird feeder out of a milk carton, box or bottle and hang it outside?
- 13 Can you make a snow globe out of an empty container? What will you put inside?
- 14 Have a family Christmas movie night, get cosy and tune in to a Christmas classic.
- 15 Can you help to bake some Christmas cookies? Or a Christmas cake?

School will be back open in the New Year on Thursday 4th January.

We look forward to seeing you all then!



Spring Term 2024 Calendar Dates:

21.12.2023 to 3.1.2024: Christmas Holidays

4.1.2024: Children Return to School

15.1.2024: Primary School Applications Closing Date

18.1.2024: Census Day

25.1.2024: Year 6 SATs Meeting for Parents and Carers

2.2.2024: NSPCC Number Day and Dress Up for Digits, and TT Rockstars Tournament

5.2.2024-9.2.2024: Children's Mental Health Week

6.2.2024: Safer Internet Day

12.2.2024: PTA Discos- Rec, Y1 & 2 15.10-16.10; Y3 & 4 16.20-17.20; Y5 & 6 17.30-18.30

17.2.2024-25.2.2024: Half Term

26.2.2024: Children Return to School

1.3.2024: Secondary School Offer Day

4.3.2024: PTA Mother's Day Pop-Up Shop

7.3.2024: World Book Day

13.3.2024: Learning Conferences 4.00-7.00pm

14.3.2024: Learning Conferences 3.40-6.00pm

17.3.2024: Comic Relief

27.3.2024: Easter Service Assembly at School led by St. John's Church

29.3.2024-14.4.2024: Easter Holidays

15.4.2024: Children Return to School