



Welcome to the December 2019 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents

SmartPhone Safety Tips

Buying a new SmartPhone for your child for Christmas? Visit **National Online Safety's** website and check their 12 Smartphone Online Safety Tips which include:

- Always secure the phone with a password
- Disable location settings
- Limit Screentime
- Think of others when taking photos
- Always use a secure WIFI network
- Set up parental controls

Find out more [here](#)



Games Consoles

Looking for advice on the best games consoles?

Today's consoles offer more realism, interactivity, and flexibility than ever before. With Christmas approaching you may be asking the question: Which console is best for your family's needs?

Check **CommonSense Media's** advice [here](#):

- Families with young children: Nintendo Switch/Switch Lite
- Tweens and families: Microsoft Xbox One S and Sony PS4

Advice includes:

- Recommended games
- Parental controls

Visit CommonSense media for reviews on Games, Films, Books, Websites and Apps [here](#)

Need help to understand gambling-like risks in games?

During the holidays, many children will enjoy immersing themselves in games - and likely to get new games for Christmas. Many games include 'loot boxes' which can introduce children to gambling-like behaviours.

The **Gaming or Gambling resource pack** from Parent Zone and GambleAware is full of information and expert advice that **parents, carers and professionals** can use to help children be safer and have fun over the Winter months.

Review a short video and find out more [here](#) including:

- Top Tips
- Glossary
- Quiz
- FAQs



Learning Differences and Special Needs Guide

CommonSense Media's Guide offers well-designed apps, recommended and tested by field experts. Apps are arranged by challenge area and difficulty level:

- Communication
- Social Interaction
- Organisation
- Reading and Writing
- Maths
- Motor Skills

Each challenge area includes an informational overview, help for choosing appropriate apps and resources [here](#).

Learning Differences & Special Needs Guide



Advice from Internet Matters

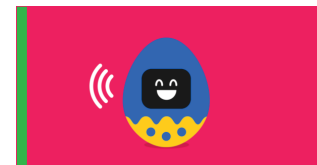
Whatever their age, Internet Matters can help you to find out more about what children might be doing online, providing practical advice on the steps you can take as a parent/carer to keep them safe in their digital world.

- Guides for 0-5; 6-10; 11-13; 14+
- Hubs: Social Media Advice; Gaming Advice;
- Online issues
- Setting controls and much more available [here](#)

Did you know there are 4 things to consider when buying a SMART Toy:

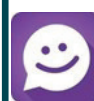
- Does the toy interact with your child and other devices?
- Does the toy require your child's personal information?
- Does it have a camera?
- Does it require a monthly subscription to access new content?

Find out more [here](#)



Have you heard of MeetMe ?

Recommended Age 13+



MeetMe is a popular social network app where users can log on to meet new people.

Has privacy and safety concerns.

Read review by CommonSense Media [here](#).

HELP IN THE HOLIDAYS!

Remember **FREE** advice is just a phone call away from the O₂ and NSPCC helpline **0808 800 5002**

Or visit any **O₂Guru** in an **O₂ store**