



## Christmas Tech Gifts - A Quick Safety Reminder for Parents

As children open new tech gifts this Christmas, please take a few minutes to check they're set up safely.

Many devices children receive (phones, tablets, games consoles, smart TVs and speakers) connect to the internet. Setting them up *before or during first use* helps keep children safe online from day one.

### Before your child starts using a new device:

- Make sure it's fully updated with the latest software.
- Create an adult account for yourself and a child account for your child.
- Turn on parental controls and age ratings.
- Check privacy settings and make accounts private where possible.
- Set screen time limits and bedtime/downtime.
- Lock or disable in-app purchases and spending.
- Limit who can message or chat with your child.
- Keep PINs and passwords stored safely.

### Talk to your child

Settings help but conversations matter most. Please:

- Agree when and where devices can be used.
- Talk about being kind online and not sharing personal information.
- Reassure them they won't be in trouble for telling you if something upsets them.
- Show them how to block or report users in games and apps.

### Need help?

Trusted step-by-step guides are available from:

- **Internet Matters**
- **NSPCC**
- **UK Safer Internet Centre**
- **CEOP / Thinkuknow**

A few minutes setting up safety now can make a big difference and give peace of mind throughout the year. Thank you for helping keep children safe online. Wishing you a happy, safe and joyful Christmas, from all of us at Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School.