itsLearning messages and chats

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to see so many of our pupils logging into itsLearning whilst they continue to be at home or at the school hub.

We are developing the features of this online learning platform. Going into the next phase we are seeing children make use of the messaging and conversation features. This also applies to children using apps to communicate with their friends, whom they are missing.
eSquad are continuing to share our support as part of our partnership in keeping children safe online. Here are some things we can all try with the children who are using the message and chat features of this site, or other apps, at home.

Talk with your child/children about what types of messages are OK to send. Remind your child/children that every social post should be positive since it can be screenshot and shared.
Use the tools on the app and regularly monitor what your child/children are chatting about to prevent online bullying and other inappropriate behaviours.
Establish an open environment of sharing apps/devices/messages. Make it part of everyday conversation to see who and what they are talking about.
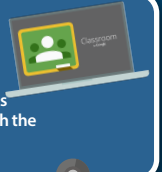
Monitor your child's communication and online activity
It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.

Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels
It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.

Take an active interest in your child's learning
As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.

Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health
Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.

Only communicate through approved school portals and platforms
It's important that you send messages and any pictures or images required for class through approved school channels, such as internal learning portals or approved platforms. This will help to keep your personal information safe and secure.
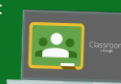
LEAVE A GROUP
If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable or has been added to a group they don't want to be part of, use the group's settings to show them how to leave.

Don't use school platforms to discuss personal matters
It's important to keep your school communication channels separate from your own personal communication with friends and family. Don't be tempted to engage in casual discussions or send images, videos or links via official school apps or platforms that aren't associated with your learning.

Use classroom language
If you are encouraged to communicate through emails and online messages, don't use shorthand text speak and write as though you would speak in class. Remember to be respectful and polite and avoid positing negative comments or spamming the chat.