

December 2024

Parent - Digital Safety Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Would you like to know more about online scams? We are running 'Are you scam savvy?' sessions that can be attended either in-person or via webinar online. Book a free ticket through [Eventbrite](#). The dates available are:

- [Crawley Library](#): Wednesday 11 December 10am – 11.30am
- [Broadfield Library](#): Wednesday 11 December 13.00pm – 14.30pm
- [Webinar](#) - 5th Feb 10-11.30am
- [Webinar](#) - 22nd April 1-2.30pm

INSTAGRAM TEEN ACCOUNTS

By the end of November 2024, all teenagers using Instagram will automatically be placed into 'Instagram Teen Accounts'; including, under 16s automatically having their account defaulted to private, regardless of whether they are an existing user or a new user.

This new account type has built-in protections to limit who can contact them, and the content they see. Teenagers under 16 will need parental permission to change these settings.

It also aims to promote a healthier attitude to screen time, with helpful reminders, and limit exposure to online harms.

Read more [here](#) about the changes.

GROOMING

Grooming is a process when an offender builds a relationship with a child, young person or an adult, so they can abuse them and manipulate them into doing things. The abuse is usually sexual or financial, but it can also include other illegal acts. Groomers often befriend a child by appearing to have the similar hobbies, using fake accounts and photos, they may also appear to be the same age as the child.

The NSPCC have released new statistics about the impact online grooming has on our young people:

- 7000 online grooming offences in 2023/2024
- Up 89% since 2017/2018
- 48% of offences occurred on Snapchat
- 81% of cases were against girls

To read more, visit: [NSPCC](#)

ROBLOX

The Guardian has published a news story on the introduction of new measures on Roblox aiming to improve protection for children on the online gaming platform. Updates include greater parental controls allowing parents to monitor their children's activity on the platform; adjustments to built-in limits around how children under 13-years-old can communicate with others; and changes to content warning labels.

Read the news story [here](#).