Co-op Academy
Stoke-on-Trent

360 degree safe

ONLINE SAFETY MARK
ACCREDITED SAFER ONLINE

Online Safety Newsletter | April 2020

#OnlineSafety AtHome

ThinkuKnow have created a special area to support parents during COVID-19 and the closure of schools. Every fortnight, they will be releasing new home activity packs with simple 15 minute activities you can do with your child to support their online safety. The packs are split into the following age groups:

- 11-13s
- 14+

You can download your packs here:

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets

Improve your Privacy online

This article contains advice for you about improving your privacy online:

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/improve-your-privacy-online-advice-parents-and-professionals

Learning online at home

As many more of us are at home and perhaps with increased screen time we need to make sure we maintain open and regular conversations with our children about what they are doing online and who they are interacting with. Set clear rules for them. Here are a few tips that may help.

Top E-safety Tips to Staying Safe Online

1. Learn your way around

Most devices have controls to ensure that children can't access content you don't want them to. Check out the **Parent's Technology Guide at the UK Safer Internet Centre** for more help.

2. E-Safety on Tablets

Tablets are really popular with younger children. Sites like **www.net-aware.org.uk** and or **www.commonsensemedia.org** provide useful advice.

3. E-Safety on Mobile Phones/Smartphones

Phones are literally mobile computers and you can use tools like **Google Family Link** for Android devices, or **Screen Time** for Apple iOS devices, to set up controls around usage.

4. E-Safety on Social Media Platforms

Look at these **social media checklists** for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Roblox and TikTok that you can download. These will help parents to understand more about each platform, what information they use, and how to set privacy settings.

5. Screen Time

The '**Young People and Screen time – A Good Start**' guide is available, which provides some tips and checklists for parents and carers.

You should also have a look at the SWGFL **10 E Safety Facts**.

Online Safety Newsletter → House Party

House Party

This month, Houseparty is in the top 5 of free apps on the App store. Houseparty is a face to face (video) social network available as either an app or web version. The App store rate it as 12+, however no age verification takes place when you set up an account.
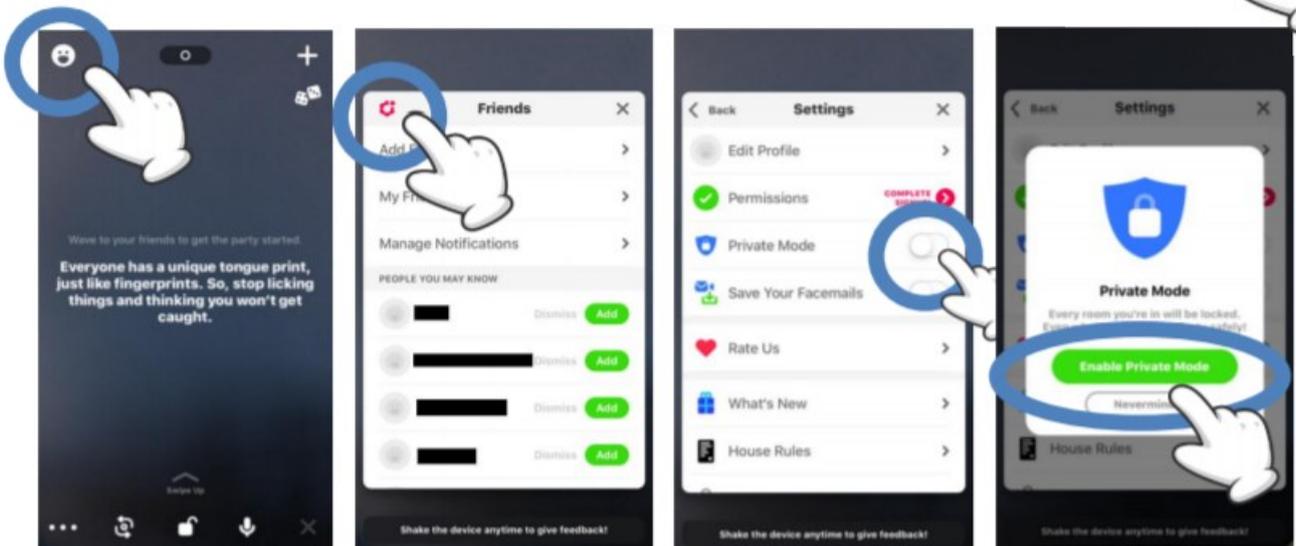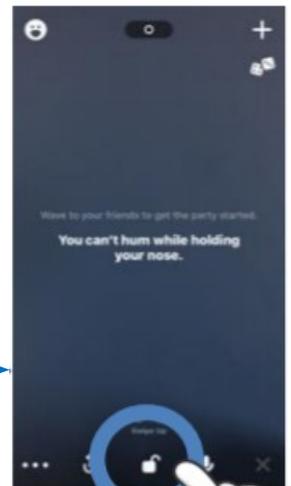
What is Houseparty?

It allows you to video chat with other users (your connections) as well as play in app quizzes and games with each other, it's designed to feel like a house party hence the name! Up to 8 people can join each room and you can join a number of rooms at any one time by swiping across.
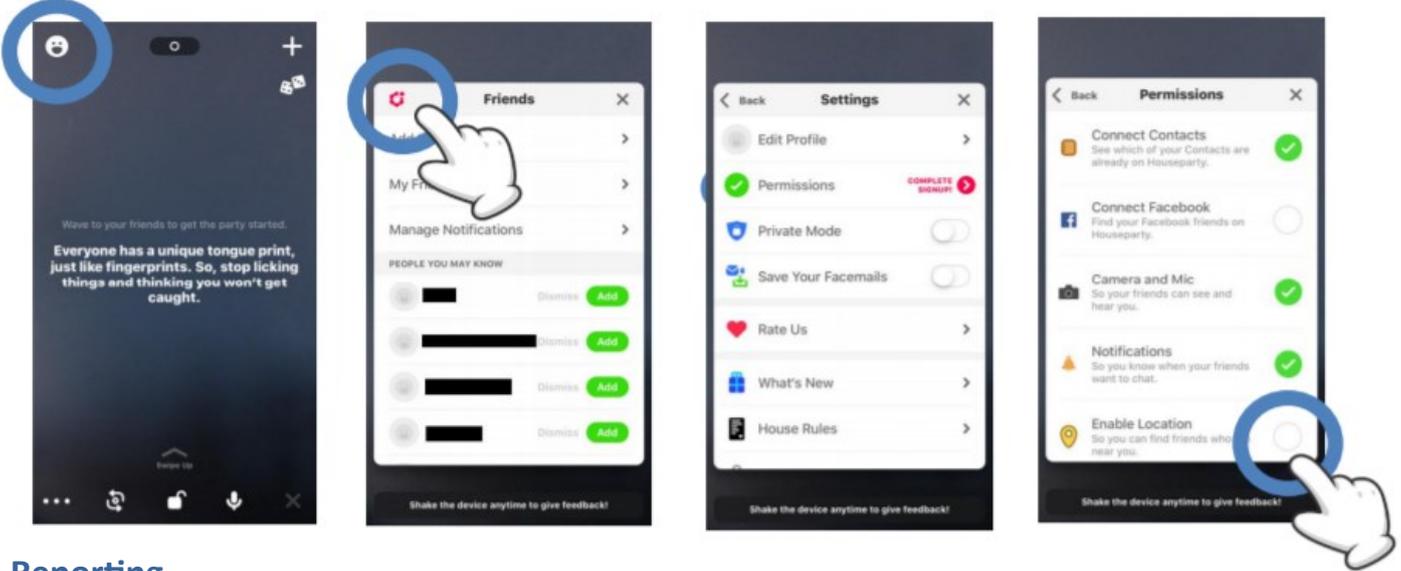
How to lock rooms:

Once you have set up an account, you access the main interface of the app where you can set up/join video chats with users you are connected to (these are called connections). Once you are in a video chat (room), your connections and their connections are able to join the same video chat session regardless of whether you invite them or not unless you lock the room. So, if you do not lock the room, then a friend of one of your friends can join that video session. If somebody that isn't your connection is about to join then you will receive a notice that they are joining the session. We would recommend locking the room by simply tapping on the padlock at the bottom of the screen once everybody that you want is in the room/joined the session.

If you enable privacy mode then every room you go into will automatically be locked. To do this, tap on the smiley face and then tap on the settings cog. Next tap the 'privacy mode' to toggle on and then select 'enable privacy mode.'

Permissions

Tap the smiley face, tap the settings cog and then tap permissions to reach the Permissions menu. Here you can simply tick each item as on or off as you choose. We would definitely recommend not enabling location.

Reporting

As with all apps, it's important that your child knows how to use the reporting tools within it. You can report direct to Houseparty if you see any inappropriate behaviour by shaking the app when in it and following the instructions. You can also un-friend or block a person by clicking on their profile, tapping the settings cog and choosing to 'unfriend' or 'block/report.'

What you need to be aware of

In-app purchases: One feature of Houseparty is the ability to play games and quizzes with your friends. Some are free and some can cost £0.89 - £4.59 per item.

Content: Other users may take screenshots/recordings of your private chats without you even realising and there is also the potential to see inappropriate content (from your friends/friends of friends).

Strangers: your child may come into contact with people they don't know (friends of friends).

Notifications: when you open the app, you friends will receive a notification to tell them and also you will receive a notification when your friends open Houseparty. Notifications can be switched off in settings (tap smiley face, tap 'manage notifications' and disable).

House Party Guidelines:

https://houseparty.com/guidelines/

As always, have regular chats with your child about what they are doing online and also join in so you can see for yourselves. It's really important to make sure that your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Do you have any online safety concerns/need further help?

Internet Matters list the contact details for a number of agencies that you can contact depending on the issue: https://www.internetmatters.org/report-issue/