

# E safety Update



January 2018

## **1. Safer Internet Day 2018 Competition**

Encourage pupils to play their part for a better Internet with our E-safety Twitter Competition

The next 'Safer Internet Day' will be the fifteenth edition of the event and will take place worldwide on Tuesday 6th February 2018.

The theme for 'Safer Internet Day 2018' will be 'Create, Connect and Share Respect: a better Internet starts with you'.

The day will give us the opportunity to think about the positive uses of technology and the role we can all play to create a better Internet. The theme encourages us to consider what we do online, the way we behave and communicate and how we should always endeavour to be positive and post positive content.

**Link:** <https://www.e-safetysupport.com/stories/296/safer-internet-day-2018-competition#.WmCx9bxl-UI>

## **2. Schools 'should help children with social media risk'**

Schools should play a bigger role in preparing children for social media's emotional demands as they move from primary to secondary school, England's children's commissioner says.

Anne Longfield said she was worried many pupils at that stage became anxious about their identity and craved likes and comments for validation.

Her study said children aged eight to 12 found it hard to manage the impact.

The government said it was working with schools on online safety education.

The report into the effects of social media on eight to 12-year-olds claimed many children were over-dependent on "likes" and comments for social validation.

It said children approach a "cliff-edge" as they move from primary to secondary school, when social media becomes more important in their lives.

**Link:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42563173>

**For more information about e safety :**

- go to <http://www.blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk>
- come into school and talk to a member of Student Services

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## **3. Big changes are coming to Facebook's**

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### ***Messenger app in 2018***

The head of Facebook's Messenger app has revealed the company's plans for the communications app over the coming year, including an aim to make it less "cluttered".

In a blog post, Messenger boss David Marcus said recent rapid expansion inside the app had left it far from its best in terms of simplicity, something the company would look to fix this year.

6 trends for 2018: what to watch from Messenger <https://t.co/a4RIJgX8D4>

— David Marcus (@davidmarcus) January 16, 2018

"Over the last two years, we built a lot of capabilities to find the features that continue to set us apart," Marcus wrote.

"A lot of them have found their product market fit; some haven't. While we raced to build these new features, the app became too cluttered. Expect to see us invest in massively simplifying and streamlining Messenger this year."

Marcus also revealed some figures on Messenger in 2017, including data on just how visual the app has become – more than 500 billion emoji and 18 billion GIFs were sent on the platform.

He added that the app would look to build on this trend in the coming year.

"Though visual messaging has been around for a while, it really started to reach ubiquity in 2017.

"I predict visual messaging will fully explode in 2018; people will expect a super fast and intuitive camera, video, images, GIFs, and stickers with almost every conversation. Even in the workplace where conversations can be more serious, we see people embracing emojis and video to help drive a point home.

"And Messenger Kids is a visual-first app: parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles can video chat with kids as if they were face to face (depending on who you ask, video chatting can be better than face to face if you use the right funny filter).

"Not only will you see more from Messenger in visual messaging this year, but this is where the industry is heading, and we won't be looking back."

Messenger Kids was announced late last year but was criticised for offering another way for younger children to get online at a time when internet safety and Facebook's approach to it has been under scrutiny.

Health secretary Jeremy Hunt was among those to criticise the move.

Not sure this is the right direction at all. Facebook told me they would come back with ideas to PREVENT underage use of their product, but instead they are actively targeting younger children. Stay away from my kids please Facebook and act responsibly! <https://t.co/XrwfSHsUMj>

**Link: <http://home.bt.com/tech-gadgets/tech-news/facebook-is-planning-big-changes-to-its-messenger-app-in-2018-11364244036219>**