We are safe searchers

Learning how to use search engines safely

① About this unit

UNIT SUMMARY

In this unit, children will discuss the process for finding information online safely. They will begin to understand how a search engine works and how to get results that are relevant and appropriate to their query. Finally, they will create a 'top tips' list for safe searching.

REPORTING ROUTES

In Year 2, children should know a range of ways to report concerns and inappropriate behaviour through:

• talking to a trusted adult.

This point should be re-emphasised in any teaching and learning where children are working online.

If any safeguarding issues or concerns arise during this unit, you must follow your School Safeguarding Policy.

ONLINE SAFETY FOCUS

In this unit, children will:

• understand the very basic principles of how search engines work
• understand the key steps for searching the web safely
• understand how to report concerns when searching the web.

ENGAGING PARENTS AND CARERS

• Children work with their parents and carers to undertake a simple web search, using the 'Top tips for safe searching' sheet that they have created in class.

TEACHER KNOWLEDGE

• The main steps for a basic successful web search are as follows:

    – Choose specific keywords which will help to narrow down the number of results you receive.
    – Choose an appropriate search engine, or, if you use one, a safe search engine (such as Swiggle, Kiddle, Kidrex, Ask Kids or Kidzsearch).
    – Type your keywords into the search box.
    – Click/press search.

• Very young children often do not know what to do if they encounter inappropriate material whilst online and, as a result, may continue to view it. It is therefore important to reinforce the idea that when faced with inappropriate content, children should stop watching this straightaway by turning the screen off, closing the laptop or turning the tablet over, before telling a trusted adult.

• An adult should always be present in the room, whenever KS1 children are using the internet to search for information, even if they are using a safe search engine.

• It is important to be accurate and precise when choosing and typing in keywords for web searches. For example, when looking for information about Ancient Greek soldiers, the term 'ancient' is crucial; without it the web search will return inaccurate information about modern-day Greek soldiers.

• For more information on how search engines work, see www.google.com/intl/ta/insidesearch/howsearchworks/thestory/index.html

• Review the definitions of the following terms using the glossary on page 64: **URL (Uniform Resource Locator)**, **domain name, search engine, virus**, **filters**.

CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

Computing
Use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content.

2 Getting ready

ONLINE SAFETY PRINCIPLES

Think about how you can embed the online safety learning and outcomes from this unit within your whole-school online safety strategy through:

- whole-school e-team engagement
- online safety displays
- use of a website online safety area
- Twitter tweets. For example: 'This half term our Year 2 pupils are learning how to search the World Wide Web safely.'
- a school newsletter. You may wish to paste the following advisory text for parents and carers into your school newsletter, or send home in book bags (see editable *Newsletter text* on My Rising Stars): 'This half term, Year 2 pupils have been discussing how to search the World Wide Web safely. All children will be asked to use their "Top tips for safe searching" to undertake a simple search with their parents or carers to find an interesting fact about animals. Please support them to do this and contact the school if you need help arranging access to the internet.'

THINGS YOU NEED

- Internet access on an interactive whiteboard/ Smart Screen to share safe browsing with the whole class

THINGS TO DO

- Double-check the content of all websites before sharing in class.
- Familiarise yourself with the steps of this activity before running this online safety session.
- Print and photocopy *Searching statements cards* (photocopiable master) – one per child.

MY RISING STARS RESOURCES

- *Searching statements cards* (.pdf)

OTHER RISING STARS RESOURCES

- There are links here with *Switched on Computing Unit 2.4 – We are researchers* (safe browsing).

INCLUSION/THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Be aware that some children may have already fallen victim to an online scam or experienced inappropriate contact or behaviour online and the issues raised in this unit should therefore be dealt with in a sensitive way following your School Safeguarding Policy.
- Some children with sight difficulties may benefit from screen magnifier tools when accessing web content.

USEFUL LINKS

- BBC Webwise – What is a Search Engine?: www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/0/22562913
- Kidsmart – Safe searching for children: www.kidsmart.org.uk/safesearching/
- Example of child-friendly web browser: http://primaryschoolict.com

③ Running the lesson

Resources

- *Steps for browsing safely online* (.mp4)
- *Searching statements* cards photocopiable master – one per child
- Google search explanation: www.google.com/intl/ta/insidesearch/howsearchworks/thestory/index.html

Possible outcomes

- The children will use their knowledge of safe browsing to create a 'Top tips for safe searching' sheet.
- Children can use their 'Top tips for safe searching' to undertake a simple search for information with their grown-ups at home or in the local community.

Step 1: Introducing the session

- Explain to the children that in this session they are going to learn how to search the World Wide Web safely and what to do if their search turns up unexpected results.

Step 2: How to browse safely

- Open a web browser on the classroom display screen. Explain or remind children that this is a doorway for looking at web pages. This can be done on any device as long as it has an internet connection.
- Open up an appropriate search engine (this might be a safe search engine or a standard search engine such as Google or Yahoo, depending on your school policy). Explain that we use search engines to search the World Wide Web for information. When we type in keywords and click search, the search engine will look for the web pages that most closely match the keywords we have typed. It will then provide a list of these web pages (the search results page).
- Explain that it's important to type keywords into the search bar carefully. Ask children why this might be (so we are more likely to get search results for something we want).
- Ask children to provide some search terms to find information for a topic they are studying. Type in their keywords, reinforcing the importance of typing in the search terms carefully so we don't have any mistakes. Discuss whether the results give them the information they need.

Step 3: Additional steps and reporting problems

- On the interactive whiteboard look at the search results page as a class. Explain we need to look carefully at the list to decide which result to click on. Ask the children to think about why this might be. Prompt them if appropriate; some of the pages won't contain the information we need, or they might contain content that children are not meant to see.
- Explain that even when we search safely using all the steps discussed, sometimes we get unexpected images or links in the search results. Ask the children to recall their online safety rules created in *Unit 2.1* (see page 40). What they should do if they find things on the internet that upset them? Ensure all children are clear that they should turn the screen off / turn the tablet over / close the laptop and tell a trusted adult.

Step 4: Top tips for safe searching

- Explain that now they have looked at the steps for safe searching online, they are going to create a list of top three tips for safe searching that they can share with their family.
- Provide each child with a *Searching statements* photocopiable master. Read through each of the cards, one by one, and ask children to decide if the statement is a useful tip for searching, or not.
- Once you have gone through all of the statements, ask children to cut out the best three tips and stick them to a new sheet. They should add a title at the top: 'Top tips for safe searching'.

Step 5: Summing up

- Reinforce that it is important to type in keywords carefully when searching the internet to get the best results. It is also important to look at the information under results to help choose an appropriate link. Remind them that if they see something on the internet that upsets them, they should turn the screen off / turn the tablet over / close the laptop and find a trusted adult.

4 Taking it further

- Ask the children to take their 'Top tips for safe searching' sheet home and to use these tips to search for an interesting fact about animals (or another theme of your choosing) on the World Wide Web with their grown-ups at home, or in the local library.