



# Netherfield Primary and Pre-School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Please see below information that we have received from Nottinghamshire Police regarding a social media app where children aged 9-11 have been targeted.

Yours truly

Mrs Essex, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Balfe



Police are urging parents to make sure they know who their children are talking to online after primary school pupils were targeted. The youngsters, aged between nine and 11 were using the **ooVoo** app – a multiple user chat service – on which a man befriended them and posted sexual images.

One of the children told a teacher what had happened and it was reported to the police.

Now, in the run up to Christmas we are asking parents to get involved in what children are doing online.

## **Keep your kids safe this Christmas**

Laptops, tablets, games consoles and mobile phones will no doubt be bought, wrapped up and happily hidden away until the big day.

And as Christmas Day gets into full swing, not a peep will be heard out of the young members of the family who are tinkering with their new gadgets.

You lose track of all the apps they talk about but there are other adults out there who don't – those who want to target children online.

## **What you can do:**

**Set parental settings:** They are designed to control what a child can view, not what they can send so you need to know the difference between these and....

**Privacy settings:** These will restrict who can see what your child is posting. What a child posts can be used by potential groomers to gather information on an intended victim so that they can pretend to have common interests. DI Pete Quinn said: *"You need to know what your children are doing online. Don't worry about intruding – that's exactly what you should be doing. The most important thing to do is to talk to your kids about online relationships. Make sure you are creating a supportive home environment so that if anything suspicious or untoward happens, they will come to you. Most children we come across are mortified about their parents discovering that they have entered into a sexualised dialogue and they are frightened about what their reaction might be. If your child tells you something like this, try to stay calm, not judge them but reassure them."*

For more information on how to stay safe online visit [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)