



28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

### Online Safety at Treetops Learning Community

I refer to my letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023 in which I shared some of my current concerns around the online safety of our students.

With this in mind, and a Bank Holiday looming, I wanted to make you aware of a new feature on Snapchat, a particularly popular app amongst teenagers and used by some of our students.

#### **Snapchat**

Snapchat has recently introduced an Ai (Artificial Intelligence) bot that you can chat to, send pictures to, and it can chat back, in the same way a Snap friend could. This came into play a few weeks ago and since then has raised some questions especially when it comes to safeguarding. Users were finding that after a couple of days of being released, the chatbot was replying in a manner which wasn't deemed appropriate.

**“Snapchat called My AI "an experimental, friendly, chatbot" which can perform tasks such as answering questions, offering advice, or planning trips. But it conceded the tool may not always be accurate, and its responses "may include biased, incorrect, harmful, or misleading content".**”, with a number of younger people experiencing anxiety over it due to the nature of some of the messages it sends. The Ai bot cannot be removed as a function.

As always, we urge you to remain vigilant whilst your child is online, and this is an area we will continue to reinforce at school.

Have a great weekend, and if you have any further concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

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