



For Parents

Welcome to the bonus
Christmas edition of the

Scomis Essentials Online Safety Newsletter.

Be prepared!

If you are buying your child a new mobile phone, games console, tablet PC set up the device before Christmas Day.

UKSaferInternet Centre recommends:

- Look at the device **before** Christmas day
- Install parental controls and safety settings
- Set up parental controls on your home internet

The following links provide detailed guidance:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe/>

Buying an internet connected toy?

Don't forget Internet connected toys also present risks and challenges!

- Ask questions about the toy in the shop **before** you buy:
- What information does the toy collect?
- Where is the information collected stored?
- Will the toy take pictures and/or store recordings of the child?
- Does the toy require location services to work?
- Can location services be switched off?
- Does the toy require a password?
- Who can interact with the toy?
- Are parental controls available?
- How are parental controls accessed?

Find out more:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/tech-gifts-christmas>

<https://iconewsblog.org.uk/>

Review the checklist from 'Which'

To help keep your family safe the consumer organisation **Which** has compiled a smart toy checklist of the things you need to be aware of before buying a connected toy and once you've brought one home. Access via the link below:

<https://www.which.co.uk/documents/pdf/connected-toy-safety-469632.pdf>

Smartphones – Remember!

- Smartphones allow easy access to apps
- Risk of accidental exposure to inappropriate content
- Easy to post to social media accounts from a smartphone – revealing information about location and other personal details

Australia's Office of the eSafety Commissioner

Has produced a useful guide for parents:

[Visit the Safety Christmas Gift Guide >>](#)



STOP PRESS! Yubo – previously Yellow!



- Advertised as a dating app for teenagers
- Does not verify ages upon sign-up.

'Yubo is a social app to meet new friends and have fun with them.'

Don't forget! Help and advice from CEOP for parents concerned about who their child might be talking to online.

- Stay calm!

Find out more:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Concerned-about-your-child/>

Talk to a professional at the NSPCC's helpline on 0808 800 5002 and Childline (0800 1111).

For more information contact Scomis:

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