Childnet
Digital Leaders
Programme
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Activities for Primary Digital Leaders

Tuesday 31 March 2020

Can you crack cryptography?

Privacy is paramount when you are online. You don't want to give away your personal information to someone you've never met, right? If you don't know who they are, what they want or how they're going to use your private details - it could be dangerous. Don't make it easy for cyberbullies and hackers to invade your privacy - there are simple ways to stop this from happening.

We've hidden 5 secret messages in the below 'cryptograms' - word puzzles, with messages that have been written in code. Each answer you reveal will make you think twice about how private you're being online and what to consider next time you log on...

In this activity, we've used numbers instead of letters. Take a look at the encryption key below:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

See how each letter is now linked to a number: A is 1, B is 2, C is 3, and so on..

To decrypt the hidden messages below, you'll need to use this secret key to by matching the numbers to their corresponding letters. Each block of numbers is a new word and there is a hint to point you in the right direction.

Go on and get solving!

1.

3	8	15	15	19	5

1

19	20	18	15	14	7

16	1	19	19	23	15	18	4

HINT: You'll need to do this when logging into any device (computer, phone or tablet) and for social media accounts too!

2.

4	15

14	15	20

16	15	19	20

16	18	9	22	1	20	5

9	14	6	15	18	13	1	20	9	15	14

HINT: Your date of birth, password and address...

3.

2	5

11	9	14	4

15	14	12	9	14	5

HINT: As Digital Leaders, you should always...

4.

9	6

25	15	21

1	**18**	**5**

23	**15**	**18**	**18**	**9**	**5**	**4**

20	**5**	**12**	**12**

23	**15**	**18**	**18**	**9**	**5**	**4**

HINT: What should you do if you see anything at all online that upsets or concerns you?

Don’t stop there…

Why not make up your own hidden messages using the key above? Then try them out on your family and friends! Don’t forget to use the answers you revealed in this activity to put into practice next time you’re online...

And don’t forget to tell us how you are using your knowledge to teach others whilst at home. We’ll put the best ones on our website!