



Beechcroft Infants School

Online Safety Newsletter

February 2026



It's Online Safety
Week!



Purple Mash have some
great activities for
Safer Internet Day.

Log on and check them
out!

Safer Internet Day:

On Tuesday 10th February we took part in Safer Internet Day.

Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on children and young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers and more, to help to create a better internet. This year's campaign focussed on exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.

Safer Internet Centre have created some free activities and information for parents and carers which are available at: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>



Voice Assistants:

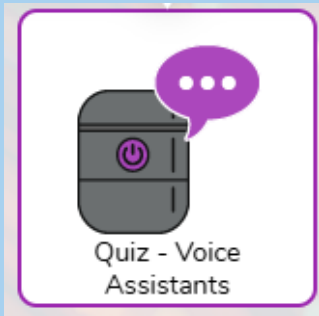
What is voice assistant technology?

Most children use voice assistants in their every day life through Siri or Google technology on smartphones. But virtual assistants, and voice assistants in particular, work in unique ways to support users.

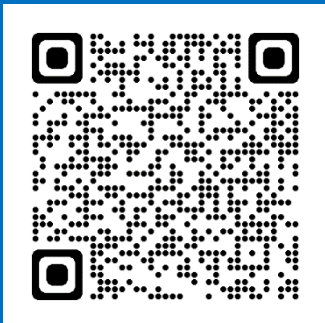
Voice assistants (VAs) are a type of technology that uses artificial intelligence to respond to voice commands. A range of devices can use this technology, from smartwatches to smart speakers, to support users.

Most children use voice assistant technologies through their parents' devices (like Siri on iPhones or Google Assistant on Androids). Or, they might use VAs through smart speakers at home (like Amazon Echo or Google Home). Voice assistants are the key to smart homes where families can control lights, heat and other devices with simple requests.

Test your knowledge about Voice Assistants with the quiz on Purple Mash!



Scan the QR code to access the school website:



Potential risks of voice assistant technology:

As with any tech, there are potential risks associated with voice assistant technology, particularly for children.

The Online Safety Act will place accountability on internet platforms, addressing VAs as a part of search services. But there are still other risks to consider that might fall outside the Act. For VAs in particular, some potential risks include:

- **Collection of children's data or private information.** Many households have voice assistant technology. However, not every one of these households have child-friendly devices or accounts to protect children's sensitive information.
- **Concerns around children's development.** Some express concern about the impacts of voice assistants on children's development, but [research doesn't yet support this concern](#). However, widespread use of voice assistant technology is still new. If there are any negative impacts, we can't yet see them. Regardless, parents should oversee their children's use of the tech.
- **Targeted advertising.** Many smart home devices that use VA technology learn about its users through the given commands. As such, the devices could suggest items to children as a form of targeted advertising. But there are ways to limit or stop this on most, if not all, devices.

More information about the uses of voice assistants and how to use them safely can be found on the Internet Matters website:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/tech-and-kids-digital-futures/what-is-the-future-of-voice-assistant-technology/>



Have a happy and safe half term.

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 13.2.26

