



**Pittwater House**

## From the Principal

### **Re: Cybersafe Community – BYOD Parent Announcement for EXISTING customers – NON – Activated parent accounts**

22 February 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are no doubt aware, the technology landscape that today's children are growing up in is drastically different to the one we had as children ourselves. Children in Australia now have their first online experience at 2 years old on average, and have personal ownership of their own devices by an average of 9 years of age.

And whilst new technologies provide our children with wonderful opportunities, they are also having an ever increasing impact on their development, education, safety and mental health.

With this in mind, we have made the decision to expand the cybersafety programs and strategies we have been putting in place through our partner Family Zone. New tools are now available to us that we feel can enhance how we guide our students' online development.

We recognise that as the technological landscape continues to rapidly evolve, we too must evolve the way we support and guide our students in their online development and use of technology.

#### **About Family Zone**

[Family Zone](#) is an Australian ASX-listed global cyber safety provider.

Since we began our partnership with them, they have now grown to support over 1,800 schools, 1 million students and 220,000 parents across Australia, New Zealand, the UK and the United States by providing tools to help all stakeholders guide a child's digital journey.

#### **What will this mean for me and my child?**

The Family Zone technology is software that your child will be required to install on their primary learning device.

It will allow the School to better maintain our duty of care during school hours by making certain the students are safe online no matter what network they are connected to. This addresses our legal responsibility to keep students safe, and will allow us to ensure that students are entirely focused on their learning whilst at school.

It will be a compulsory part of the School IT policy that the software is installed on your child's device and active during school hours. This will be monitored and enforced and appropriate action will be taken with students found to be in violation of School policy.

By default, the Family Zone App will only be active during school hours.

However, all parents will receive a new email inviting them to activate these new tools outside of school hours if you have not already done so.

### **What will activating Family Zone at home provide me?**

Family Zone will provide you with tools to help you understand and engage with your child's use of the internet at home.

It will provide you with weekly reports of how your child is spending their online time, and if you wish, tools to allow you to limit access to certain types of content at certain times of day e.g. no Netflix during 'homework' time.

Each family will receive multiple licences allowing you to install on other devices such as mobile phones if you wish, but the extent to which you use the tools will be entirely up to you, and your child.

### **Is it going to be compulsory that parents activate it at home?**

No - Activation outside of school hours will be entirely optional and at each family's discretion.

However, as a school, we would strongly encourage you to support us in this cybersafety initiative.

With today's children spending as much as 50% of their waking hours online in a world with no boundaries or restrictions, we firmly believe it to be essential we apply the same guidance and support in their digital development that we offer them in the real world.

It is our strong hope that as a School community, our partnership with Family Zone will empower both us as a School and you as our parents with the tools and information we need to achieve this.

### **What happens next?**

Over the coming weeks we'll be working with Family Zone to configure the solution at School. We will also be working to educate the students about the program to ensure a smooth transition.

Once we have the School set up, you will receive more information about the program, including details on how to activate your account and any relevant dates for training and information sessions. In the meantime, to learn more about Family Zone, please visit their [website](#).

At Pittwater House we are committed to ensuring our students get the very best education in all aspects of life so they can leave fully prepared for the world they will enter in the future, and we firmly believe that this new cybersafety initiative is the best way to achieve that goal.

We look forward to your support.

Your sincerely



Dr Nancy Hillier  
Principal