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FROM	<b>Corporate Communications West Midlands Police</b>	<b>Priority 1</b>
TO	<b>Head Teachers and Principals</b>	
CC		
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## **Have a cyber-safe Christmas**



***News release from West Midlands Police: 27 November 2015***

Mums and dads buying digital presents this Christmas are being urged to talk to youngsters about online safety.

With criminals, extremists and abusers exploiting social media to reach directly into the bedrooms and minds of young people, officers are appealing to parents in the West Midlands to make their children aware of the dangers and encourage them to talk about any concerns.

To help get the conversation started, the force has produced a Christmas card with top tips to stay safe online, which parents can print off and wrap up with their gifts before placing them under the tree.

Supt Tim Bacon, force lead for child abuse, says: "The last thing we want to do is spoil the fun on Christmas morning but it is important for parents to understand the vulnerabilities and what these devices can expose young users to.

Over the past 12 months we have seen cases of underage girls groomed online and then sexually exploited by men who they have arranged to meet up with.

We have also seen young people in Birmingham and Coventry radicalised and drawn into terrorism as a result of speaking to terrorists overseas on popular social media platforms.

The most important message is that parents should not shy away from raising these issues with their children. To help them get the conversation started, we have designed a Christmas card parents can download and pop inside digital gifts. We hope it will help highlight the risks and responsibilities that come with using social media."

Download and print your card [here](#) or below:

[Christmas E-Safety Card](#)