

I love and loathe Christmas in equal measure. I really do. The pressure of satisfying commercial desires, the continuous adverts, the gluttony of large lunches and so on. My office staff have stuck a picture of the Grinch on the office door and so far withheld this year from plastering every spare inch of wall with tinsel, lights and sparkly baubles.

But I am softie really and crumble at the heart warming generosity of some to others less fortunate. But most of all I cannot help but recognise that Christmas is very exciting for children. I find myself asking small kids how many sleeps there are until Santa comes only to be given a precise and factually correct answer without hesitation!

Gone however are the days of a school sock hanging off the bed waiting for Santa to put in a few small items and a Satsuma. The financial pressure on parents to get the latest gadget or toy for their little ones is leaving many really struggling. This has always been the case and I am sure the Care Bear I craved set back my mum a fair penny. But this year, tablet computers are expected to be one of the top Christmas presents for children, adding further anxiety to parents wondering what their kids will look at online.

Thankfully Government has been working with industry to help parents protect their children from inappropriate content online and the big four service providers have agreed to introduce network level filters covering devices in the home. Along with bullying, online safety is fast becoming one of the most worrying aspects of being a parent according to the latest surveys.

So if you are fortunate enough to be able to afford a tablet for your little one then you can do so with safety in mind. If not, then I can recommend a Care Bear...