*When you hear the words **malware, adware and spyware,** do you understand their meaning? Is a Trojan horse something you associate with Greek history or the modern-day world?*

These are all potential threats and unfortunately for us, they are only getting more advanced. Fear not - look at the definitions below and learn a bit more about the meaning of these threats:

- ➢ **Malware** – A buzz word for intrusive software, including computer viruses, Trojan horses and adware.
- ➢ **Adware –** Software that automatically downloads or displays advertising banners or pop ups when you are online.
- ➢ **Spyware –** Software that enables you to obtain information about another computer's activities by transmitting data using their hard drive.
- ➢ **Viruses –** Small programs or scripts that can negatively affect the health of your computer. These malicious programs can create files, move files, erase files, consume your computer's memory and cause your computer not to function correctly.
- ➢ **Worms –** A type of virus that replicates itself, but does not alter any files on your machine. However, worms can still create chaos by multiplying so many times that they take up all your computer's available memory or hard disk space. If a worm consumes your memory, your computer will run very slowly and possibly even crash.
- ➢ **Trojan Horses –**Software programs that look like regular programs, such as games and even antivirus programs. Once they are run, these programs can do malicious things to your computer.

Phishing is part of this group. Our Ninjas have some more tips to help you and your staff stay safe:

- ➢ Have up to date antivirus software installed on your systems. Without this, you could be in trouble.
- ➢ Install security patches. Patching helps to protect your devices and has become extremely important as part of the updating process.
- ➢ Be careful with any software you install. Contact your IT provider if you are unsure.

- ➢ Delete any unknown emails. Never download or open attachments unless you are sure it's from someone you know. If you receive emails from random people, do not open them.
- ➢ Avoid clicking on ads. Especially ads where something is bright and colourful, with the possibility that you can win a prize! Ads have become more sophisticated and interactive so that you'll be tempted to play it like a game.