



Bolney CEP School | Online Safety Newsletter– May 2021

Dear families,

We hope you are managing to spend time outside as well as online! As we become engrossed in the summer term and hopefully can enjoy being outside, we also know that our children will be online socialising and completing their home learning on Teams. In each newsletter we always celebrate the use of technology. It is a vital part of our lives and although we include how to be safe online, we also include how to have conversations with your child about their online lives. Please see below for support for you and your child in how to have these conversations and where to get more help.

Latest advice, current news and where to get support



Our March newsletter comprised of a section about Fake news. In this section we mentioned about how to help your child become a critical thinker; a skill that will help in all aspects of school and home life and in their adult lives too. It is important to help our children understand how to identify legitimate news sources. Watch this video by Dr Linda Papadopoulos for support on how to teach your child to become a critical thinker:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/fake-news-and-misinformation-advice-hub/>

Fake news has also been added to the West Sussex Staying Safe Online newsletter this month because of the many advances in technology and the new creation of Deepfakes, fake news is becoming much harder to spot. Deepfakes use artificial intelligence in which a person in an existing image or video is replaced with someone else's likeness, to make images or videos of fake events, hence the name Deepfake.

You can find out more on this website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zfkwcqt>.





Games and Apps to discuss at home to help us stay safe online

Before we mention the Apps, we have been made aware through our Jigsaw (PSHE) lessons in Silver Birch that some of our children do not discuss their online lives. The children have been discussing relationships and socialising online and when asked the question *'Do you tell your mum and dad about the friend you have made?'* or *'Who do you tell if you have a problem online?'* the children responded with *'I would block them or delete them'* rather than tell a trusted adult. Apparently, nationally, 49% of parents have spoken to their children about online safety this month. This is the checklist for parents taken from Internet Matters.Org:

- 1) Agree boundaries
- 2) Explore together
- 3) Stay involved
- 4) Talk to siblings
- 5) Put yourself in control
- 6) Use airplane mode
- 7) Check if it's suitable

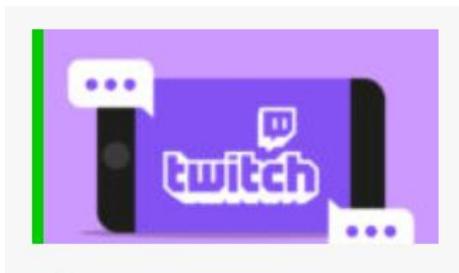
Please take the time to have these conversations and find more information on this link:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/#guides>

Your child may or may not have heard of the two apps below, but we thought it would be better to have the information if you need it. According to Internet Matters.Org website, the latest apps to be aware of are:



Discord launched in 2015 as a way for video game players to communicate with each other and develop a community outside of the games themselves. However, since then, it has grown into a full social network with a wide range of ways to interact with over 140 million* active monthly users. The age rating is 13+ as with most of the Apps we include but our children could still access it.



Founded in 2011, Twitch is a live streaming platform where millions of users can watch live streams or pre-recorded video gameplay. Other available channels users can watch include music, sports, esports, and food. The age rating is 13+ and unlikely our children will access it but still one to be aware of.

You can parental guides for these apps should you need them at:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/>



The West Sussex Staying Safe Online newsletter is promoting a different event due to the increased mention in the media about scams. To help raise awareness of these different types of scams, how to spot them, and what to do if you or your family become a victim, the West Sussex Community Safety & Wellbeing Team alongside Trading Standards are running free monthly scams awareness webinars for you to attend. There are six different times and you can click on the link below to take you to one for the 20th May 10-11.30 where you can find the other times and dates too.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/safe-against-scams-tickets-150016624763?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>



As always, if you would like further support or have any questions, please contact me by email at:

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