



This term we have discussed with all children from Reception to Year 6 about how to stay safe online. As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. Each half term we will share advice and resources to support you to support your child in using the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

What should I be concerned about?

Risks of using Snapchat include your child viewing content that is not appropriate for them, location sharing and contact from strangers.

NEW safeguarding features

Snapchat have recently announced their newest features to help protect 13-17-year-olds. The features include seeing a warning message if they receive a chat from someone who has been blocked/reported by others. Also, if a teen blocks a user, it will also now block any future friend requests sent from accounts created on the same device (to reduce the potential of bullying). **These two features are available to users aged 13-17-year-olds, this is one of the reasons why it is always important for your child to sign up with their correct date of birth, so they can benefit from such features.** You can find out more as well as about the other new features here: <https://values.snap.com/news/new-features-to-help-protect-our-community?lang=en-GB>



Need app ideas?

Internet Matters have curated a list of age-appropriate apps depending on what your aim is when your child is spending time online:

Skill Building apps:

If you would like to help your child develop a new skill, then you might find some useful ideas here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/skill-building-apps-guide-for-kids/>

Apps to keep your child entertained:

These apps are organised into age groups so you can find an app that is suitable for your child:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/13-great-apps-to-keep-your-kids-amused-in-the-school-holidays/>

Apps to help get your child active:

Again, these apps are organised by age group:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/apps-to-help-kids-get-active/>

Wellbeing apps:

These apps are organised by topic such as sleep aids or managing anxiety and will help your child develop an understanding of how to look after their own wellbeing:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/wellbeing-apps-guide-for-kids/>

WhatsApp: chat lock/secret code

You must be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. Did you know that you can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting? If a user locks a chat, then the chat will appear at the top under locked chats but cannot be viewed without your device password or biometric (face id/fingerprint). Furthermore though, a user can apply an additional setting to hide the locked chat (so it does not appear in their chat list and can only be accessed via the search bar). Whilst this feature adds privacy, it can make it difficult to monitor what your child is doing on WhatsApp, which is why it is important to have regular chats with your child.

If you need any further advice or support with online safety, please come and talk to us in school.

Our PCSO will be delivering a parent workshop on Wednesday 26th Match at 2.30pm – All welcome!

Mrs Mainwaring