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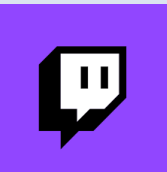


1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

### Spotlight on staying safe online

Social media and social networking is often a large part of young people's lives - it's how they keep in touch and communicate with friends, family and schoolmates, as they get older. Personal mobile devices mean that children and young people can be active on social media anywhere and at any time. This can provide new opportunities for children and young people to learn and express themselves. However, social media is a constant concern if it isn't used safely by our children. We do teach safe use of the internet in our RSHE and Computing curriculum but we cannot monitor that children are applying these skills when out of school and the temptation to be on these apps is so exciting, some are keen to fit in with their friends and communicate in creative ways - but these apps can be dangerous if not used correctly and that is why most apps have an age restriction of 13+/15+. Whilst there are benefits to being online, there are risks too regardless of your child's age. Risks include your child viewing inappropriate content, sharing personal information, cyberbullying and grooming..Here are some parent guides might help you at home with the safety messages that we share at school:

## Social Media Apps

What age should my child be to use these apps?

 <b>Discord</b> 13+	 <b>Facebook</b> 13+	 <b>Instagram</b> 13+	 <b>Snapchat</b> 13+
 <b>TikTok</b> 13+	 <b>Twitch</b> 13+	 <b>Twitter</b> 13+	 <b>YouTube</b> 13+



Is your child asking you if they can join social media? Then you could suggest an alternative option. Internet Matters list several apps that have been created for younger children, they are grouped for ages 6 - 10 and ages 11 - 13:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids/>

### Reporting functions

If your child is using any of these apps then make sure you show them how to use the reporting facilities within each app and ensure your child knows that they must tell you or another trusted adult if they see anything upsetting online. Use the apps together and explore the different security and privacy settings. At the end of this letter is a Focus on Snapchat leaflet. Ideally children should not use this app unless 13+ but we have been made aware that some children do have access.

Net Aware provide further information about the most popular apps, games and social media sites: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

### [Keeping Your Child Safe Online - Priory Junior School \(priory-jun.notts.sch.uk\)](http://www.priory-jun.notts.sch.uk)

If you have any concerns or questions, please see your child's class teacher so we can support.

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

The Christmas tree is up at Priory and Christmas songs are being played in the playground meaning the season is now fully upon us! Next week is Christmas Jumper day in aid of Save the Children and your child is invited to come to school in their Christmas or winter jumper and non-uniform. If you would like to and are able to make a donation to Save the Children this can be done through the website [www.christmasjumperday.org](http://www.christmasjumperday.org).

(Please note that Phoenix will be holding their Christmas Jumper day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December- meaning siblings might be able to share!)





Dates for  
the Diary:

### Autumn

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023- Christmas Jumper day
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023- Flu Vaccinations
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023- Year 5 Art Showcase 2.55pm
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023- 10 AM Year 3 and 5 Christmas Carols -All Hallows Church
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023- 2 PM Year 4 and 6 Christmas Carols-All Hallows Church
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023- 2pm Year 3 Nativity
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023- Christmas Dinner
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023- Last day of term

### Spring

- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024- First Day back
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024- Safer Internet Day
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024- INSET DAY (School closed) and last day of term
- W/C 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024- Parents Evening (Times and days to be confirmed)
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024- Year 5 Swimming starts - details will be provided.
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024- Last day of term

### Summer

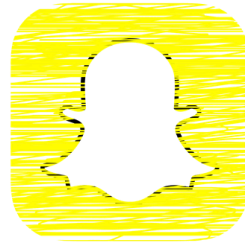
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April return for Summer Term
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024- Bank Holiday- School closed
- W/C 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024- SATS week
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024- Last day of term
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - first day back to school
  
- W/C 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024- Sports Day (Days and times to be confirmed)
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024- INSET DAY
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024- (time to be confirmed) Year 6 Production
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024- Year 6 Prom
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 - (morning - time to be confirmed) Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024- Last day of term- END OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24

# FOCUS ON:

## SNAPCHAT

### What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is an app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.**



### How does it work?

Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time period e.g. 10 seconds.

Users can also upload snaps to stories which then disappear after 24 hours.

### What should I be aware of?

- **Who is your child friends with** – talk to your child about who they are friends with and why it is safer to be friends with only those they know in real life.
- **Group chats** - in a group chat there may be people that they're not friends with on the app who can then communicate with them in the group. This also increases their risk of interacting with strangers.
- **Snap Map** - The map lets users see where 'friends' are. Location sharing via the map is optional and is off by default (we recommend that it remains off).
- **Snapchat streaks** - Streaks count how many consecutive days two people have been sending Snaps to each other, this can increase pressure to respond daily.
- **Inappropriate content** – due to the nature of the app your child may come across content that is inappropriate.
- **Screenshots** – whilst Snaps disappear, users may take screenshots before they do, potentially resulting in them losing control of what they have shared as it could be sent to other people.
- **Bullying** – there is a risk of bullying on all platforms so please ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.
  - <https://snap.com/safety/safety-reporting/>
  - <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/a/remove-block-friends>

### Safety tips

It is important to talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and make sure that they know that they should always talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns. **Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.** We would recommend you explore Snapchat with your child and suggest why certain options are safer, for example, setting your account so only friends (rather than everyone) can see your content and only those you are friends with can contact you.

- <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/article/privacy-settings2>

### Further information

- Parents' Ultimate Guide to Snapchat:  
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-snapchat>
- <https://snap.com/en-GB/safety/safety-center>

## Creating strong passwords

We need to create passwords for everything these days and it's

important that our children not only understand that they shouldn't share passwords with others but also that they know how to create a 'strong' password to keep their information safe. Learn more here:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/how-to-create-strong-passwords-online/>



## Monkey (rated 18+)

This is a website and app (available only on Google Play) that allows users to make video calls to strangers. This is a very concerning app/website which has highly inappropriate content on it. The following link provides further information about it:

<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2021/07/06/safeguarding-alert-monkey-web/>

We recommend not talking about this app/website by name with your child, so it doesn't lead to your child searching for it out of interest. Instead, talk to your child about what they are doing online and if they have any concerns.

## What if someone else posts a photo of your child on social media?

What can you do if somebody posts a photo of your child on social media? The UK Safer Internet Centre explores this question:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog>