



Computing Newsletter

May 2021

Useful Links

[Top Tips](#)

12 Top Tips to Supporting Mental Wellbeing Through Nature Online and Offline

[Net Aware](#)

Your guide to apps, games and social media sites.

[Internet Matters](#)

Helping parents keep their children safe online.

[Parent Zone](#)

Experts in digital family life.

[E-Safety Zone](#)

Advice, guidance and resources gathered by the '2 Johns'.

[Childnet](#)

Making the internet a great and safe place for children.

[ThinkUKnow](#)

Protects children both online and offline.

Discord - Raising Awareness

The gaming chat app 'Discord' has increased in popularity during the lockdowns. The app allows you to text chat and video chat to other users. Prior to lockdown the app was mainly used by gamers and wasn't overly popular, but since then there has been an increase in the amount of users. Particularly among children, who use it to chat to others about games and sometimes because they aren't allowed to use other chat apps.



Discord contains a 'private server' feature, which is essentially a private chat room. Playstation are integrating Discord chat into a new feature on the console, so the we are likely to see a significant increase in usage when this happens.

Please follow [this link](#) for more information regarding Discord.



Youtube Kids App - Auto Play Warning

There has been some concern recently over the Youtube Kids app and corresponding website. The site contains an autoplay feature that keeps on video coming after another with no pause or interruption. When one video ends, another video selected by Youtube Kids automatically plays. At the moment, this is a default setting and there is no way to turn it off.

There are concerns over the endless loop of videos that could be watched by children, until someone intervenes, keeping children watching for as long as possible without a natural break or endpoint. Also, the content of the autoplay videos selected by the app itself can be a concern. With the autoplay feature it is much more difficult to ensure children are safely watching appropriate videos that have been approved by an adult. Youtube are working to change this feature so that autoplay is not a default setting on the Youtube Kids app.

TikTok - Uniform Warning

TikTok have done some brilliant things recently in regards to their safety features, including users under 18 having a default private account, a new prevention of bullying feature and tightening the options for commenting on videos created by those ages 13-15.



This being said, there are still areas of concern and things to be aware of when using the app. In recent weeks, children have been falsifying their ages on the app to live stream. The major concern with this is lots of these children have been live streaming outside of their school gates and in their school uniforms. This is potentially very dangerous behaviour and I urge you to discuss these concerns with your children who are using these kinds of apps and especially live streaming.

Please follow [this link](#) for an extensive guide to safety on TikTok.

Queen pledges the UK will "lead the way" in internet safety

The UKSIC is calling on the Government to honour its commitments to making the UK a safer place to be online as the Queen pledges the UK will "lead the way" in internet safety.

Speaking in the Lords on May 11th at the state opening of Parliament, the Queen laid out the Government's key priorities. Among these is a renewed commitment to improving online safety – with the Queen promising internet safety will be a priority for the UK in the coming months.

The Queen said: "My Government will lead the way in ensuring internet safety for all, especially for children, whilst harnessing the benefits of a free, open, and secure internet."

