



ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Welcome to this month's issue of our online safety newsletter! We hope that this continues to inform you on how you can help your children stay safe online and things you need to be aware of such as new apps, games, and more! We also hope to celebrate the amazing work that children in each year group have done with regards to online safety as well as set governor challenges that you and your child can take part in!



ARE YOU A POS?

It is really important that you are a POS to your children (Parent Over Shoulder) when they are using any technology at home. There are a lot of issues that are brought into school that can be avoided by keeping a watchful eye on your child's online activity.



MR SMITH'S GAME WATCH

This month's game—**Piggy!**

Piggy is an online, survival, episodic-horror game on Roblox that was created by MiniToon. It combines the game-play and aesthetics of another game within Roblox called Granny with the style and characters from Peppa Pig (although the game has since strayed away from the TV show, as the game got popular and notable by many people).

In the game, players can either be a survivor or Piggy. The main goal in each map for survivors is to complete different tasks and escape or reach the goal while avoiding the Piggy before the timer runs out. Meanwhile, the Piggy has to kill all the survivors or at least prevent them from winning.

Originally, it was meant to be a joke, as a mini-game, and a game for Youtuber MiniToon and his friends to play, but it has, to his surprise, achieved multiple milestones and has now become more mainstream. In 2021, Piggy won "Game of the Year", and the title of "Builderman's Award of Excellence" during the 8th Annual Bloxy Awards.

The Annie Lennard website has also now been updated! There is now a page dedicated to the work that the children are completing across school during their Online Safety lessons and also a page showing "our digital world" where the children in each year group share what they do online. This has been fundamental to helping us inform staff, parents and also educate the children themselves on the dangers that children could find while online. Just scan the QR code to visit the website.





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DISCORD (INFORMATION QUOTED FROM INTERNETMATTERS.ORG)

Launched in 2015, Discord is a platform for people with similar interests to share and communicate. It is popular among the gaming community as it offers a way for video game players to communicate with each other and develop a community outside of the games themselves.

However, it has grown into a full social network with over **140 million** active monthly users. It is no longer just popular among gamers.

How it works

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Age Limit

13 years and up unless local legislation mandates an older age. However, Discord “updated its age rating to 17+ at [Apple's](#) request.” Their website states they want to “help ensure minors are not exposed to content inappropriate for them.” But under-17s can still register and use the platform. The [Google Play Store](#) has a “Teen” rating.

What to watch out for

Some Discord servers contain adult content and are labelled as only accessible to those over 18 years old. Anyone that opens the channel sees a warning message that lets them know that it might contain graphic content and asks them to confirm they are over 18. Servers that contain adult material but are not labelled should be reported.

The conversations in Discord are private to the group, so it's less open and visible than other social networks. Along with this, you can type, talk, listen and watch live videos of other users. There is also a 'Nearby' feature that allows you to add friends who have the location features on their device turned on that are physically nearby.

More Information



MONITORING APPS

Would you like to monitor what your child is doing online? The best app to use will be dependent on what devices your child is using but this helpful article from Internet Matters reviews the top monitoring apps for you:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/monitoring-apps-parents-guide/>

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments regarding this newsletter then please contact Mr Smith on

year3.als@annielennard.sandwell.sch.uk

If you have any questions or concerns then please contact either Mrs Crozier, Mrs Higham-Jones or Mrs Hadden and they can help you where they can!