

SCHOOL MATTERS

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THE LAST OF THE DIGITAL DATES

Friday, July 20th

11.00am Leaver's
Service

1.30pm End of
Summer Term

Have a happy, safe
and enjoyable
summer holiday.

See you in the
new school building
on Monday
10th September



JULY 20 2018 NEWS

This being the final School Matters of the 2017-2018 school year, it is the natural time to thank everybody involved in the progress made by the school during the year.

It is the time to say goodbye to the members of Year 6 and wish them every success and happiness in their new school.

It is the time to say goodbye to Mrs McFadden, Year 6 teacher, and Mrs Watson, Year 3 Teaching Assistant. We thank them for their excellent contributions to the success of the school.

It is time to say hello to a new school building.

It is time to say thank you to the huge numbers of supportive and energetic parents who support the school through fundraising and kind words. In a world often smudged by negativity, all of us appreciate the positive attitudes.

During the school holidays, there are many local activities that children can be involved in. A lot of these can be found on the Summer holiday Activities page on the website.

www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk/website/summer_holiday_activities

If the weather does a complete turnabout and children are stuck indoors on tablets and computers, please be aware of the advice we have received concerning Fortnite and Snapchat. We have included this advice in full on the following School Matters pages and they are also available as a news item on the school website.

There is a slight change to online payments effective from 1st September 2018. The Schoolcomms payment Gateway will now be accepting Credit and Debit cards as well as Instant Bank Transfer.

We have been asked to give parents some information about 3 online activities. We have included 2 factsheets about Fortnite and Snapchat.

The 3rd is a game called Doki Doki Literature Club and is not recommended to anyone under 16. More information can be found at this link:

<https://safeguardinghub.co.uk/doki-doki-literature-club-a-coroners-warning/>

Child safety on Fortnite: parent factsheet

Fortnite is an online video game where players compete to be the last person standing in a post-apocalyptic world. The most popular version is Fortnite: Battle Royale, which sees up to 100 players pitted against each other to stay alive on an island. Players can build and demolish structures, and collect weapons, supplies and armour to help them along the way.

Players shoot each other using a range of lethal weapons, but the brightly-coloured, cartoon-style graphics and lack of bloodshed mean it doesn't feel too gory or graphic.

To play, the age recommendation is **12 and above** due to 'mild violence', although you don't have to provide your age when creating an account, so younger children can still log on easily.

Fortnite: Battle Royale is **free to download** on PC/Mac, Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch and iOS devices (Apple phones and tablets). It's coming to Android soon.

It has about 45 million monthly users worldwide including the England football team, who reportedly played it in their World Cup downtime.

What are the concerns?

You may have seen news reports or heard concerns raised about the:

Communication between players: a chat function allows players to talk to each other either over a headset and microphone, or using messaging. Children could use it to speak to strangers, or it could put them at risk of cyberbullying

In-app purchases: players can build up large bills on their parents' accounts by buying cosmetic items like outfits for your character and better-looking weapons (otherwise known as 'skins')

Addictive nature of the game: anecdotal stories tell of children staying up all night to play, or falling asleep in lessons after playing for too long. Some commentators attribute this to the communal feel of the game – you can play with your friends – and the game is different every time you play, keeping it fresh

What safety options are available to parents?

Use the parental controls on the gaming device

Most devices allow you to **set time limits** on game play, **set age limits** for content, and **restrict in-app purchases**.

Visit the website 'ask about games' for links to detailed instructions on the device your child uses – the site covers Playstation 3, Playstation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, Apple and Android phones, and Nintendo Switch.

[Ask About Games](http://www.askaboutgames.com/advice/parental-controls)

www.askaboutgames.com/advice/parental-controls

The battles in Fortnite last around 20 minutes. When trying to limit your child's screen time, make the most of this natural stopping point. Set a limit in terms of matches rather than hours and minutes, or set time limits in 20 minute increments.

Turn off the voice chat feature

Speak to your child to make sure they know this feature exists, and encourage them to use the options below if they encounter someone who is offensive or inappropriate.

You can disable the voice chat function in the game if you:

- Open the settings menu (the 3 lines on the right-hand-side of the screen), then choose the 'cog' icon

- Select the 'audio' tab

- You should be able to turn off 'voice chat' by tapping the arrows next to it

You can also 'mute' individual players in the game by:

- Pausing the game

- Hovering over the player you wish to mute

- Selecting the mute button (a loudspeaker icon)

Make sure your child knows how to report inappropriate behaviour

You or your child can report players who make them uncomfortable using the in-game feedback tool (located in the main menu).

You can also use the 'support' section of the Epic Games site (the makers of Fortnite). You're asked to select the platform you play the game on, the game mode you're playing, and then you can select 'report player'. You can provide more detail such as the player's name, and attach a screenshot.

[Support, Epic Games](https://fortnitehelp.epicgames.com/customer/portal/emails/new?b_id=9729&q=email+us)

https://fortnitehelp.epicgames.com/customer/portal/emails/new?b_id=9729&q=email+us

What else can I do?

Further tips

Download and play the game to help you understand it

Talk to your child about what they're doing online, and make sure they know they can talk to you about anything that has upset them

Check your bank statements and gaming system account balance regularly to look for in-app purchases you're not happy with, and to make sure your child isn't getting around any passwords you've set up

More sources of support

Non-profit organisation Internet Matters has put together [5 top tips to manage children's screen time](https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/5-top-tips-to-manage-childrens-screentime/).

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The [National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \(NSPCC\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/) has a range of resources for parents on internet safety.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

The NSPCC has also teamed up with O2 to offer advice to parents. You can call their free helpline on 0808 800 5002, or [make an appointment](https://guru.secure.force.com/O2DeskStoreLocator) with an O2 Guru in an O2 store.

<https://guru.secure.force.com/O2DeskStoreLocator>

Sources for this factsheet

This factsheet was produced by [Safeguarding Training Centre from The Key](#).

[Fortnite, Epic Games](#)

<https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/home>

['Fortnite chat raises stranger danger fears from NSPCC', BBC News, 3 May 2018](#)

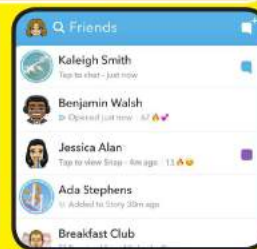
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-43988210>

[Fortnite: all you need to know, Net aware, from the NSPCC and O2](#)

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/fortnite-all-you-need-know/>



Snapchat is a photo sharing app for mobile phones and tablets. The app allows users to share images, videos and chat with friends. Users can share images and videos directly to specific friends, or through a 'story' shared with their entire friend list, which documents the last 24 hours. In a study, Snapchat was ranked the 4th most negative app in terms of having an impact on young people's health and wellbeing, with children feeling that they can use the app Snapchat to "make you look pretty".



What parents need to know about SNAPCHAT

EXPOSING YOUR CHILD'S EXACT LOCATION

The 'Snap Map' lets you share your EXACT location in real-time through a map on the app. The user's location updates when the app has been opened on the device. There is a warning on the Snapchat website about uploading images and videos to 'Our Story', stating that "Snaps you submit to Our Story can still show up on the Map, no matter what location setting you choose". When uploading to Our Story, your child's image or video could appear in "Search results and Stories on or off Snapchat - today or in the future".

SCREENSHOTS & SAVED MESSAGES

While Snapchat's gimmick is that all photos, videos and text disappear eventually, users still have the capability to screenshot or record what has been sent to them. Users may sometimes forget that screenshotting is a possibility in the app and send a compromising image or message to somebody that they think they trust. They may also accidentally send an image or message to somebody who they do not trust. Simply by pressing and holding a message, allows the user to save a message they have received, which can be screenshotted or used against them at a later date.

SEXTING

Due to 'Snaps' disappearing, (users can even send a one second photo or video), Snapchat has become the chosen platform for children and young people to send sexually explicit images or 'selfies'. Once a photo/video has been screenshotted, or recorded using another device or software, this can lead to further dangers, such as blackmail and cyberbullying. It is illegal to make, possess, download, store and share sexual images, photos and videos of a person under the age of 18. This also includes any sexual images, photos and videos that a child may have taken of themselves. However, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed, but taking formal action isn't in the public interest.



SNAPSTREAKS & ADDICTION

'Snap Streaks' are gained when snaps have been sent back and forth consecutively between friends. The longer that Snaps are sent between users, the longer the streak becomes. Furthermore, Snapchat rewards users who have achieved high Snap Streaks, by gifting emojis, adding incentives for users to keep the streaks. Children invest time into making their streaks as high as possible, this can put an incredible amount of pressure on children and their friendships to make sure their streaks are continued.

NEW FOR JULY 2018

LENS EXPLORER

The Lens Studio on Snapchat gives users the freedom to use their imagination to design their own filters for themselves and others to use. Snapchat states that the lenses users create "must comply with our Lens Studio Submission Guidelines and Community Guidelines and must be appropriate for Snaphatters ages 13+." The Lens Explorer in the app now allows users to choose from thousands of these creations to alter their snaps. Anyone can create a Lens for Snapchat, which opens opportunities for age-inappropriate content to be uploaded.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents



DISCUSS THE RISKS OF SEXTING

It can be slightly awkward talking about this topic with your child, but if it helps them protect themselves, then it is worth it. Talk to them about the consequences of sexting and make sure that they're aware of the risks. Ensure your child knows that 'Snaps' can be screenshotted. Teach them that if they post anything potentially embarrassing or harmful (either of themselves or someone else) it can have severe consequences; the message, image or video can be shared further.

USE 'GHOST MODE'

We highly recommend enabling Ghost Mode on the app so that your child's location will no longer be visible to anyone on the 'Snap Map'. To enable this, go onto the Snap Map and tap the cog in the top-right corner. Here, change the setting to 'Ghost Mode'.

RESTRICT STORY VIEWS

Your child can add videos and images to their 'Story' throughout the day which will last for 24 hours. By default, anyone in a user's friends list can see their story. We recommend checking the privacy settings to ensure that this has not been edited. This can simply be done in the app's settings under the 'Who Can View My Story' section. The options to choose from are 'My Friends', 'Everyone' or 'Custom' - we suggest that it is set to 'My Friends'.

REPORTING A STORY, LENS, FILTER, SNAP OR MESSAGE

If your child comes across inappropriate Snapchat content, which may be sent directly to them or in another person's story, advise them to report it immediately. This may include an inappropriate lens, filter, message or Snap. To report an offensive lens, they should open the app and select the lens they want to report. An info button will appear above the lens. Click this, followed by the flag icon. This will send a report to Snapchat for further investigation. Reports can also be made on the Snapchat support website: support.snapchat.com.

NEW FOR JULY 2018

HOW TO DELETE A MESSAGE

Advise your child never to send any negative messages (or images through gallery in the chat on the app) as screenshots can still be taken. You should also advise your child to screenshot any negative comments that they receive as the sender can also delete them. To delete a message, simply press and hold the sent message and press delete.



TURN OFF 'QUICK ADD'

'Quick add' helps friends find each other on the app. This is based on mutual friends or if their number is in their phone book. Explain to your child that this feature can open up their profile to strangers. We highly recommend that your child turns off the 'Quick Add' feature. This can be done in the settings.

SOURCES:

Status of Mind: Social media and young people's mental health | Life in Likes - Children's Commissioners Report | Google Play Store | <https://support.snapchat.com/en-US> | <https://natsanity.net/snapchat-parent-review/> | BT.com | Independent.co.uk