



# Online Safety Newsletter November 2024

## Sherwood Junior School Online Safety Newsletter

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## *Sherwood Junior School Digital Leaders*



Last issue we shared that we now have a team of Digital Leaders at Sherwood Junior School!

A Digital Leader is a pupil who supports the use of ICT across school and helps develop the computing curriculum.

Their job includes:

- helping in computing lessons across the school by setting up;
- helping younger children to log on;
- helping peers who are finding something tricky;
- taking assemblies with teachers, being in charge of the technology used;
- be a point of contact for children's online safety concerns;
- being involved in special events;
- attending computing club;
- creating blogs and writing to parents through this computing newsletter;
- being the first to trial new hardware and software.

We are really looking forward to establishing these roles in school and hope you'll join us in saying good luck and thank you to our newly appointed Digital Leaders!

Our children can find and identify our Digital Leaders by looking for small white circular badge on their jumper.

## Getting to know our Digital Leaders - Say hello to Darcie!



Hello, I'm Darcie! I am one of the year 5s. I became a digital leader because computing is one of my favourite lessons also I like the idea of helping people. If you are one of the year 3s or your child is a year 3 don't worry we are here to help. Our number one priority is to help teachers and pupils.

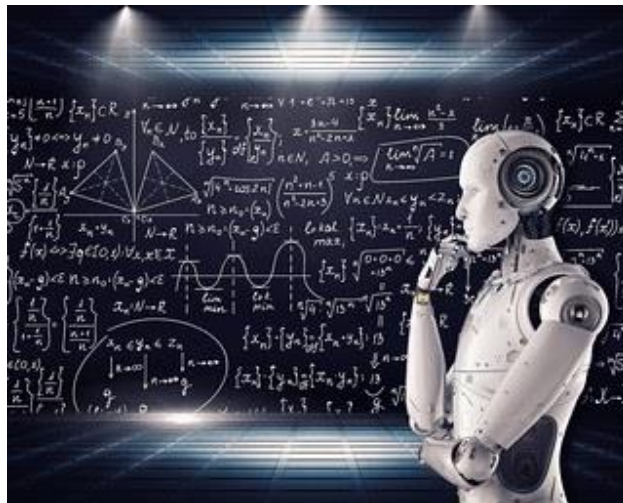
I hope you tell your friends or child to tell more people about us we would love to help or speak to you about ONLINE SAFETY or even if you just need help finding something on the laptop or something as simple as turning it on. We can be found in year 5 and 6 or on the playground (5 and 6).

Thank you for reading this - I hope this helps both you and your child. Remember safer than sorry!!!!



1 - A short internet safety video with some top tips which Darcie thinks you may find useful.

## AI Chatbots



Over the last couple of weeks you may have read in the media about a new concern around an AI platform called Character.ai. If you've never heard of this platform, it's basically a chatbot service where users (13+) can create and/or chat with existing characters where the chatbot will give human-like responses.

Country-wide, children from Year 3 upwards have been found to be using and conversing with chatbots (mainly Snap MyAI which is embedded within Snapchat), but Character.AI takes this to a whole new dimension as people are creating chatbots based on real people such as: Jimmy Saville, Molly Russell (who sadly took her own life) and Brianna Ghey (who was murdered) to name a few. It is already known that some children and young people are becoming obsessed with chatbots, such as giving them names and referring to them as real people.

The concerns around this is growing weekly which emphasises the fact that when we are talking to children and young people we need to be aware of these emerging areas so that we can adequately engage with them. You can view a good article on the BBC website about Character.ai [HERE](#) and Internet Matters have put together a 'What Parents Need to Know' article which can be found [HERE](#).

## The ABC online safety checklist






Internet Matters have created an age-related ABC checklist for online safety:

A= Activate parental controls

B= Balance screen time

C= Check and chat

See below for the checklist or click [here](#).

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Activate</b><br> | Turn on <a href="#">broadband filters</a> for basic protection on devices in the home. <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|  | Manage <a href="#">SafeSearch</a> . <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|  | Password-protect app stores to limit downloads. <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|  | <a href="#">Update parental controls</a> as their online activities change. <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>Balance</b><br>  | Set a good example with your own screen use. <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|  | Create screen-free zones at home. <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|  | Switch off devices an hour before bedtime. <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|  | Encourage children to take breaks (for example every 20 mins). <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|  | Charge devices outside bedrooms. <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|  | Use screen time tools to help manage how much time they spend online, e.g. <a href="#">Google Family link</a> for Android or <a href="#">Screen Time</a> for Apple. <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Set digital boundaries and routines together ( <a href="#">Family Agreement</a> ). <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| <b>Check</b><br>    | Review the <a href="#">minimum age requirements</a> for the apps, games and platforms for your child wants to use. <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|  | Discuss <a href="#">online risks</a> and strategies to tackle them. <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|  | Ask children what they like to do online and why. <input type="checkbox"/>   |
|  | Show them how to report or block inappropriate content on <a href="#">platforms they use</a> . <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|  | Share your concerns about their online safety. <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|  | <a href="#">Talk regularly</a> with your child about their online life in casual settings (like over dinner or during a walk). <input type="checkbox"/>                                      |

## Gaming tips for parents of neurodivergent children



Internet Matters has published a helpful guide – focussing on online gaming safety tips for parents and carers of neurodivergent children. The simple 5-page guide covers research, examples of suitable games, some of the challenges parents face, and the key benefits.

The guide can be accessed [here](#).

## Discord Chatroom



### WHAT IS IT?

Discord is a voice and text app designed for gamers. It allows you to voice and text chat across different platforms. There are growing concerns around content and conduct in the Discord chatrooms.

Discord is a platform that hosts chat rooms dedicated to individual games including Fortnite. In a recent investigative report by Sky News, it was reported that 'There's no way to report Discord users for comments they make in voice chat. There is for text-based conversations, but that is not how many gamers use Discord.'

If your child is using chatrooms whilst gaming, Kids Online World has created a brief overview for parents and carers which you may find helpful.

Find it [here](#).

## Contact Us



If you have any questions regarding online safety, please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Burton.

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