



Shacklewell Primary School  
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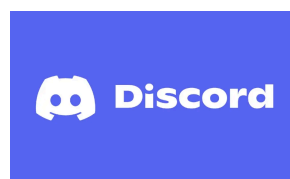
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Executive Headteacher: Ms Nicole Reid  
Headteacher: Mr Rory McGrath

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

**re: Online Safety - Year 4**

I am writing to share some important safeguarding information with you following a recent internal school investigation. During this process, it was brought to our attention that a number of children in Year 4 are currently accessing and using the communication platform **Discord**.



As a school, we consider the use of Discord by children aged 8 and 9 to be unacceptable due to significant child protection and safeguarding factors. It is important to note that Discord has a minimum age rating of 13+.

The platform is designed for adult and teenage gamers and lacks the robust, child-specific filters found on educational platforms. Use of such apps at this age exposes children to potential risks, including contact from strangers in public 'servers', exposure to age-inappropriate language or content, and the complexities of unmoderated group chats.

We understand that navigating the digital world can be challenging for parents. To help ensure your child remains safe online, we recommend taking the following proactive steps:

- **Check Age Ratings:** Before allowing your child to download an app, please check the PEGI or App Store age ratings. For Year 4 pupils, platforms like Discord, TikTok, and Snapchat are not age-appropriate.
- **Review Privacy Settings:** Ensure that any devices your child uses have strict privacy settings enabled. This includes disabling 'location sharing' and ensuring only known friends can contact them.
- **Open Dialogue:** Regularly talk to your child about what they are doing online. Ask them to show you the games they play and the people they are talking to in a curious, non-confrontational way.
- **Device-Free Zones:** Encourage 'tech-free' times, particularly in the evening. We strongly advise that devices are not kept in children's bedrooms overnight.
- **Utilise Parental Controls:** Use built-in tools such as *Google Family Link* or *Apple Screen Time* to monitor usage, set time limits, and block inappropriate apps.

In order for the school to support families we are hosting a parent workshop on digital safety on **3<sup>rd</sup> March** at **9:00am** for families with children in Nursery to Year 4. I strongly encourage as many families as possible to attend this session.

The safety of our pupils is a shared responsibility between home and school. We will continue to cover digital citizenship and online safety within our curriculum to help the children understand how to make positive choices online.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe.

Kind regards,



Rory McGrath  
Headteacher



# Navigating Your Child's Online World

For Parents of Nursery through Year 4

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

9:00 am

## Parent Digital Safety Session

### Why Attend

- Explore common online behaviours and usage statistics for 3-9 year olds
- Get support with setting up parental network and device controls at home
- Develop tools to practice effective digital hygiene with your child
- Discover strategies for effectively managing screen time

*Teas, coffees and light refreshments provided!*

**We look forward to supporting you on this journey. Hope to see you there!**