



# Online safety at home: Parents and carers newsletter

18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Chatting, being kind and making friends online

Primary-age children may not have previously had much experience with video chatting apps such as zoom, FaceTime and Skype, but may well be using them now for education or to keep in touch with family and friends.

To make sure your child has a positive experience video chatting online, read this [guide for parents and carers](#)

The internet has many positive opportunities for children to learn and play, but it can also be used in negative and unkind ways. It's really important to speak to your child about being kind online, and how they can get help if they see or hear anything that makes them feel worried, scared or sad.

Use these [conversation starters](#) to help your child understand the importance of being kind online.

The term 'online friend' can be used to describe people you only know through the internet, or those that you also know offline. Some children make friends online by meeting new people through online platforms such as gaming sites.

To help children have positive online friendships, read this [handy guide](#).

## Sharing information, pictures and videos

It's harder to stay connected with our friends and family right now, so you may be sharing more images and videos of our children online via social media. But before you do, there are some important things to consider.

Read [sharing pictures of your children](#) for info on how to protect your younger, or older child whilst staying social.

Using devices like phones and tablets to share pictures and videos can be a fun way for children to have fun and stay in touch with friends and family online. It's really important your child knows what's ok to share online and what they should check with you first.

Read [younger children sharing pictures or videos online](#) for more information on the risks and how to support safer sharing.

Personal information is any information that can be used to identify your child.

Sharing personal information online is easy and sometimes children, like adults, might share more online than they would offline, which can be risky.

Read [your child's personal information and how to protect it online](#) for information and advice.