

Safer Internet Day 2021

Safer Internet Day is celebrated each year in February but, of course, being **safe online** is something that everybody needs to do all year round!



Write down two things you can do to stay safe online.

The Internet and digital technology provide us with amazing opportunities and endless possibilities. Tick the things that you use digital technology for:

video calls

playing games

help with schoolwork

watching videos

communicating via text

communicating
via email

shopping

listening to music

hobbies and interests

other:

Each year, Safer Internet Day has a different theme.
This year, the theme is **An Internet We Trust**.



Whenever we go online, we need to think about whether we can trust the things we see, read and hear. That means asking ourselves:

**Are these things
online true?**

Can we trust what we see online?

Yes. Everything and everyone online is trustworthy.

We can trust some things but we need to check other things.

No. Nothing and no one can be trusted.

I'm not sure.

Lots of information and things we view online can be trusted. They are reliable and trustworthy. Can you write down two or three trustworthy sites or apps that you know of?

However, some information online is not reliable even if it is presented as factual.

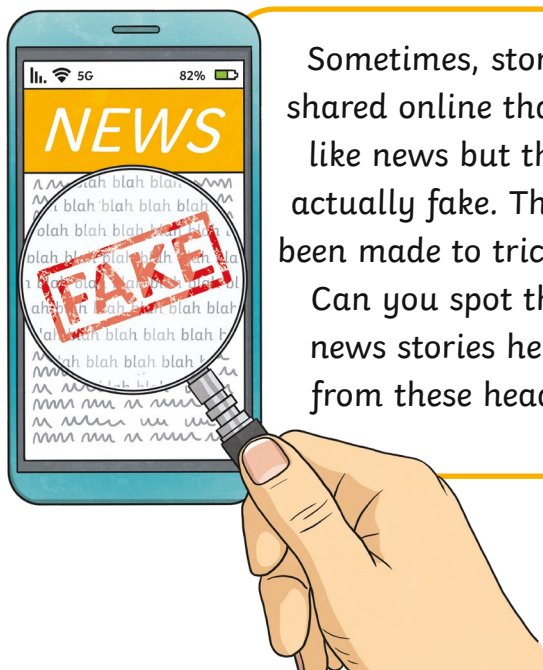
Which of these pieces of information do you think sounds trustworthy?

A pop-up box saying you have won £1,000,000.

Information on an educational website saying King Henry VIII had six wives.

A message saying you need to forward it to ten friends so you don't get ten years of bad luck.

News on a website you've never heard of claiming that dinosaurs still roam the earth.



Sometimes, stories are shared online that sound like news but they are actually fake. They have been made to trick people. Can you spot the fake news stories here, just from these headlines?

Tornado Hits South America



Scientists Pull Moon Closer to Earth for Brighter Nights



World's Largest Mouse Found and It's as Big as a Horse!



Face masks Litter Beaches



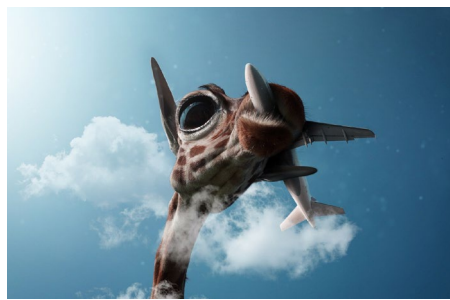
New Species of Fish Discovered in Deep Ocean Dive



Now, you can have some fun! See if you can come up with your own headline for a fake news story.

It isn't just stories, messages and headlines that might be fake. Clever technology today means that photos and videos can be edited to make them appear real. Many people even alter the photos they take on their smartphones or use filters to change their appearance.

Tick the photos you think might be fake.



When we see something online that we think might not be reliable, we need to check it. Which of these options are good ways to check information?

Speak to a trusted adult.

Check the information on other websites.

Check the information in a book.

Check the URL – is this a reputable site you have heard of?

We all need to make sure that what we say and do online is responsible. It's up to us to try to make sure that we only post, share or forward accurate and trustworthy information.

What should you do if you receive a message or email that contains false information?

Something else online that we need to watch out for is 'phishing'. This is when people or companies ask us for personal information. What sort of personal information should we never share online?

our full name

our address

our favourite song

the football team we support

our email address

our passwords

a photo of our pet

the name of our school

Being safe online also includes knowing who we can and cannot trust.

Imagine someone who you play games online with asks to meet you. You have chatted to them online for nearly a year but you don't know them offline. What should you do?

Say **no** because they might not be who they say they are.

Something else:

Say **yes** because they have become your friend.

Remember, if we don't know someone offline, then we don't really know them. Although most people are honest and are who they say they are, not everyone can be trusted.

If you are ever concerned about anything you have seen online, speak to a trusted adult.

Write down who your trusted adults are.

You have done a great job today, thinking all about technology and trust. Together we can create a better and safer Internet for all!