MGL

# ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

## UNDERSTANDING ONLINE STRANGERS & KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

ISSUE 22

## ONLINE STRANGERS

Children can come into contact with strangers online through games, social media, and apps. Many of these platforms allow users to chat publicly or privately, making it easy for anyone to start conversations with your child.

Strangers might join group chats, send direct messages, or pretend to share similar interests to build a connection. It is important to be aware of how easily this contact can happen and to help children recognise when an interaction is not safe.

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM ONLINE STRANGERS

- **Explain what a stranger is –** Help your child understand that someone they only know online is still a stranger, even if they seem friendly.
- **Use privacy settings** – Set accounts to private and turn off messages from people your child doesn't know.
- **Stay involved** – Ask your child to show you the apps and chats they have so you can understand their online activity.
- **Know how to report and block** – Show your child how to block users and report concerns within apps.

## APP SPOTLIGHT - DISCORD

This week's platform spotlight is **Discord.**
Discord is an online communication platform that has become a space for communities with diverse interests. It allows users to connect through voice, video, or text within chatrooms known as 'servers'.
Servers can either be public or invite-only, meaning children can easily join public servers.

- Discord's minimum age is **13+**, but is recommended for ages **17+**.
- Discord does not moderate its servers, so users might encounter inappropriate content or discussions that are not suitable for children.

*Scan the QR code to learn more:*