



Mail on Friday

Redhill Primary Academy and Nursery Weekly Newsletter

Email us at: parentcontact@redhillprimary.co.uk

Christmas Holidays

We would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.
We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Year 1 - Year 6 Pantomime Visit Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Yesterday, Years 1-6 visited The Place to watch Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.
What fun they had!



Reception trip to Weston Park

On Monday, we had a trip to Weston Park.
The children were very busy with lots of Christmas crafts and activities.
We even got to go on a train ride! We all had a fantastic day.



PIC-COLLAGE

Shropshire Homes

Thank you to Shropshire Homes who donated a food hamper to be gifted to a family at our school.
All children were entered into the draw and Kian Holdsworth was the lucky winner.
Well done Kian.



Inconsiderate Parking

Please be respectful of our neighbours when parking.

We have had a report that an ambulance was unable to access a 999 call at a house of one of our neighbours. If you park in any of the streets around the school, please be aware of leaving room for people to access their properties and also leave room for emergency vehicles to pass easily through the street.

Thank you.

Thank you to The Friends

We would like to say thank you very much to the Friends of Redhill. They work tirelessly behind the scenes helping to raise money for our school, which helps the children benefit from many wonderful things.
We thank you all.

Reception Places 2023-2024

If you have a child born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019, they are due to start primary school in September 2023.

You can apply for a reception class place until 15 January 2023.

You will need to apply to the Local Authority in which you live, but you can apply to schools outside of your Local Authority area should you wish.

If your child is attending nursery, they must still apply for a school place.

There is no guarantee of a place at the school even if a child has been attending their nursery or pre-school.

More information is available at www.telford.gov.uk/admissions around school allocations and oversubscription criteria.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING

13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content – a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at [gmw3.com](http://www.gmw3.com): a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



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The Friends of Redhill

You may have already seen that the Friends of Redhill are part of the Easy Fundraising group where you can earn donations from some of the country's biggest retailers, just by shopping online.

It really is that simple, yet some people are not aware of it or are unsure of the details.

Easy Fundraising partner with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to Redhill Primary Academy. It doesn't cost you any extra as the cost is covered by the brand, making it 100% free of charge to you. The brands pay the commission because when you start your shop from the website or app, they can see Easy Fundraising sent you to them. When you make a purchase, a commission is generated, and they turn that into a donation to us.

These are our top 10 earners on our easyfundraising page:

Top 10 Earners

1. Roger
2. Catherine
3. Amy
4. Anastasia
5. Rachel G
6. Joanne
7. Helen
8. Suzanne
9. Rachel H
10. Jenny

We thank you all.

If you would like to join our efforts to raise money through the East Fundraising app, here is the link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=165867&invite=A25HK7&referral-campaign=s2s>



Please join the Friends of Redhill Facebook page for more updates and news about what we are up to.

Facebook - Friends of Redhill Primary Academy

We are also looking for new volunteers to join our team.

Please message us on Facebook for further information.

It just remains for us to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a very healthy and prosperous 2023.

Happy holidays everyone.