



St John's CE Primary School

Brook Lane, Walsall Wood, Walsall, WS9 9NA

Head Teacher: Mr A C Mills

Tel: 01543 452197 Fax: 01543 452956

e-mail: office@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk

Website: www.stjohnscewalsallwood.co.uk



20 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

'Discord' is a chat app (video and text) and prior to lockdown, it was not particularly common, however, usage was beginning to increase with gamers as young as 6 years of age. During the lockdown period there has been a heavy increase in activity on Discord. Some of the children say they will use it with their friends to chat about games, others said they will use it because their parents won't let them use WhatsApp!

Young People can engage in casual discussions, exchange links/usernames, share propaganda, amateurish artwork and memes and as you know, this is precisely how befriending, grooming and recruitment can often take place. It is important to be aware in order to keep your 'ears to the ground'. Children will commonly talk about 'private servers' and here they are referring to a 'private chat room'.

Please note if your child uses a Playstation! They are now integrating the Discord chat into the Playstation itself and therefore the likelihood will be a further increase in usage towards the end of the year. Check your child's online activity as often as you can to keep them safe.

For more information please go to NSPCC NetAware.

Kind regards

J Haigh

