

Year 6 Afternoon Learning -

Week beginning Monday 11th January 2021

This is your themed learning for Computing:

Online Safety – Fake News

Read this
information!



What is Fake News?

'Fake News' grew in notoriety in 2016 during the US Presidential Elections although it has been around for a long time...probably as long as politics has been around.

It is what it says in the title: news that is fake/not true/made up.

It works by shocking people into reading it in the same way that gossip works.

Think about how gossip or rumours work...

- Are they usually totally true?
- How many people are usually involved – a few or many?
- Is it nice for the person being gossiped about? Why?
- Why might someone gossip or spread rumours?

Why Do People Make It?

Fake News is usually created to grab people's attention; those who make it want as many readers as possible:

- to make money by advertising to all the people that look at the page/article;
- to create **propaganda** to make a person, argument or cause look better;
- Simply to trick people.

Why would these Internet headlines make people click on them to visit the page?

- *'Woman in Sheffield Lost 2 Stones in 2 Weeks'*
- *'You Won't Believe This about Your Local MP'*
- *'New Evidence Found for Life on Venus'.*

Design and make a poster to remind people to think twice when reading news stories that look shocking or amazing.

Be Alert...The Top 5 Rules For Spotting Fake News:

1. If it sounds too amazing or too shocking to be true – it probably is. If it sounds too amazing or too shocking to be true – it probably is.
2. Has the story been on the main news channels, the **broadsheet newspapers**, the school website or other sources you know you can trust?
3. Check 'facts' on trusted websites. For example, checking space 'facts' on NASA's website.
4. Do an Internet search of the news title or website along with the word 'fake' or 'scam'. It may tell you from trusted sites that it's a well-known fake news story.
5. Look at who is producing the story – is it a story about how bad one political party is, being produced by supporters of the opposition?