



Theme of the half term:

News & Media Literacy

This half term the children will be learning about news and media literacy, this covers a wide area such as copyrighting, editing images, fake news and everyone's rights and responsibilities online.

What is fake news?

Fake news is news or stories on the internet that are not true.

There are two kinds of fake news:

- False stories that are **deliberately published** or sent around, to make people believe something is untrue or to get lots of people to visit a website. These are deliberate lies that are put online, even though the person writing them knows that they are made up.
- Stories that may have some truth to them, but they're **not completely accurate**. This is because the people writing them - for example, journalists or bloggers - don't check *all* of the facts before publishing the story, or they might exaggerate some of it.

Social media make it so much easier for these stories to spread quickly, which can be a problem.

[Click here to read more on BBC Newsround](#)

How can I help my child spot fake news and decode media messages?

With so much media and information coming at us through the TV, phones, social media and more, it's more important than ever for children to understand the basics of media literacy.

Media literacy support for Parents



1

Encourage healthy scepticism.

Help them analyse the messages around them -- from toy packaging to news headlines -- and question the purpose of the words and images they see.

2

Play "spot the advert".

When you see advertising on TV or on a hoarding, ask children to figure out what the advert is selling. Sometimes it's obvious and sometimes it isn't. Help them explore why certain pictures, sounds or words are used to sell certain products.

3

Explore different sides of a story.

Use real-life examples to help children understand how people can view the same situation from totally different perspectives. One child might experience a game in the playground as fun, while another might feel like the rules are unfair. When appropriate, tie this example to a news story.

4

Discuss fact vs. opinion.

Play around with ideas and decide which are facts and which are opinions. Ask: *How tall are you? What's the best food in the world? Do rocks sink or float? Do you like dogs?* Point out that both facts and opinions show up in the news, but opinions are usually labelled.

5

Choose a variety of sources.

Show children how you get news and information from different places and explain how you make your choices. Use words like "credible", "trustworthy", "respected" and "fair". As children get older, introduce the ideas of "bias", "satire" and "clickbait".

What is digital literacy? [Click here to watch a short video](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LElWqXi7Ag&t=5s

For more resources from common sense education click here: [Common Sense Education News & Media Literacy](#)