Safer Internet Day

What is Safer Internet Day all about?
Safer Internet Day started in 2005 and now happens in over 100 countries around the world. It aims to help young people to use the Internet safely and make good choices online. This year, it is happening on Tuesday 9th February and the theme is 'An Internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'.

What Does the Safer Internet Day theme mean?
Although the Internet is a great source of information for young people, unfortunately, not everything is always as it seems. The online world also contains fake news and misleading content. Fake news is false information that claims to be true and reliable news.

Fake news can affect young people's decisions, views and opinions. It can be harmful to young people because it breaks the trust we have of all people in the media, even though many are reporting honestly; and can cause people to act on false information.

The Safer Internet Day theme focuses on supporting young people to be able to decide what they can trust online. It aims to help them to feel more comfortable at separating fact from fiction and to develop skills to be able to make the best decisions while online.

How can we spot fake news?
Being able to spot whether content is fact or fiction is difficult and something that even adults can find tricky. Here is a guide to help you spot fake news.

Who is reporting the story?
Check that a trustworthy news channel is reporting the story, such as the BBC. Is there an author or journalist name? If not, it could be suspicious.

What is the domain name?
Fake news stories will often have a strange domain name. Websites ending in .com.co are often fake versions of real sites.

Does it seem professional?
Bad web design, as well as poor spelling, punctuation and grammar, might mean it is fake news.

Remember- Don't just believe the first thing you read is true; read stories from different places to get a range of viewpoints.