

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another Busy Week

We can't quite believe it, but we have sped into December at full speed. We have our younger learners practising for their nativity, and year 5 are getting ready for the Christingle. Amongst all of that, we are still doing lots of learning and it has been lovely to walk around school and see the children so engaged in their lessons.

The first Design and Technology topics have started in classrooms too; I have managed to see year 4 learning about 'wearable technology', year 3 will start to explore materials in their 'cushions' topic and year 1 are going to be having a go at building 'Baby Bear's Chair' using Goldilocks as their inspiration. It is lovely to see so much creativity happening around school.

After some parent feedback, we have put more parent reading opportunities in the diary for this half term. We hope our year R and 2 parents have been able to attend our 'Parent Stay and Read' sessions in the library; we look forward to inviting our other year groups next week! We hope to run these sessions every half term—we really do appreciate all the feedback around parental involvement as we will take ideas on board and try and accommodate where we can.

Rectory Farm Vs Blackthorn Football Match

Our annual home derby football match happened on Wednesday afternoon, with 11 year 5s and 6s sent to Blackthorn to play against their football team. They were very excited to represent their school, and had some time to practice before during lunch time.

For the second year in a row we were successful winning 10-6 and Mr Hemmings reports that they represented the school well, and showed good sportsmanship. We are incredibly proud of the way they played—well done to all!



Curriculum

Year R — This week reception have been learning about people who help us with our health. They have had an optician come in to talk to them about how they help people to look after their eyes. Also, we had our firefighter visit last Friday where children had the opportunity to look around the fire engine, test out the hose and ask the firefighters questions.

Year 5 — This week Year 5 have been learning about techniques used in video production. The children have been exploring different types of shots used to create a variety of effects in helping to focus the viewer. They have also written some short scripts and had a go both presenting and behind the camera.

Online Home

Spelling Shed 


1st: Rowan 


2nd: Sycamore 

Millie – Year 3 


Pranav – Year 5 

Autumn – Year 4 


1st: Sycamore 


2nd: Maple 





Enessa (3) – Super Star Collector 


Eduard (4) – Most coins 


1st: Maple 

2nd: Sycamore 

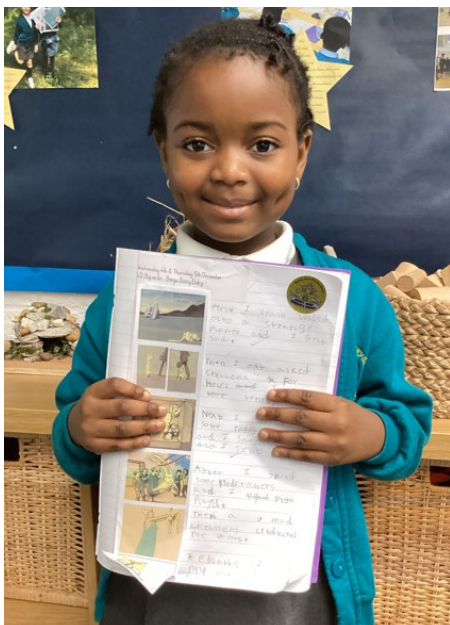
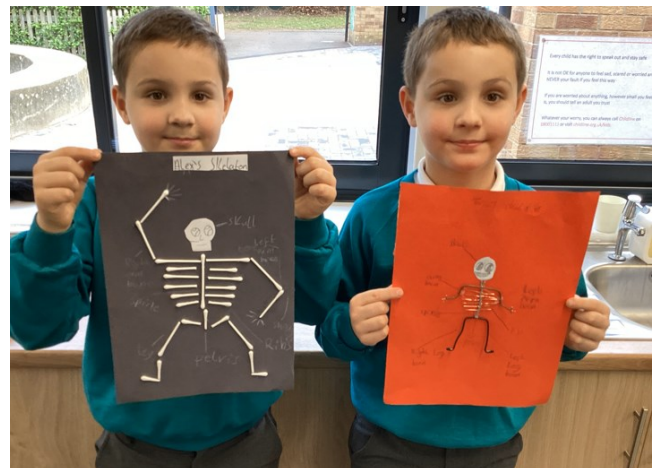


Matas (3) – Most minutes 

Elliot (2) – Most coins 

Sophia (5) – Most correct answers 

Year 3 have been learning all about the human body, and Alex and Eric have made their own version of the human skeleton. They labelled all the different parts and could talk about the different materials they used. Well done boys!



Elizabeth has been doing some lovely independent writing in year 1 about their story 'Beegu'. Her handwriting was beautiful and her sentences were clear and full of description. Well done Elizabeth!

Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
9th December	Year 6	Parent 'Stay and Read'
10th December	Year 3	Parent 'Stay and Read'
11th December	Year 4	Parent 'Stay and Read'
11th December	Year 5/6	Target Games Festival
12th December	Year 5	Parent 'Stay and Read'
13th December	Year 1	Parent 'Stay and Read'

Messages from Mrs Llewelyn (our Family Support Worker and DSL)



Safeguarding Awareness Course for Parents and Carers—England Football Learning

This course is designed to help parents make an informed choice about the footballing infrastructure in which children are enrolled. The course explains the vital role of safeguarding within the sporting sphere, and is well worth a look. If interested, in this e-seminar, please follow the link below: [Safeguarding Awareness for Parents and Carers | England Football Learning](#)

Many thanks,

Sam

Please make sure you pack warm PE clothes for your child as they may still have PE outside, depending on the sport. Trousers and hoodies are encouraged!



Miss Walker-Collins —Acting Deputy Headteacher

Mrs. Williams—Executive Headteacher

Friday 29th November 2024

School Contact details: Tel – 01604 4011820

SNAP STREAK**97****DAYS**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College