



Forest Glade Primary and Nursery School Family – Growth – Potential

November 2024

We have lots of exciting things happening across school in the lead up to Christmas to get us all in the Christmas spirit. Take a look below at some of the amazing things we have been doing this month!



Anti-Bullying Week & Children in Need 2024

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week this year was Choose Respect. Therefore, we started the week with Odd Socks Day to celebrate diversity and children took part in different activities throughout the week to raise awareness. We finished the week supporting Children in Need with a 'bright and uplifting' non-uniform day. Thank you for your donations we raised £100!



Eco Quote of the Month

"Save the bees. Planet trees!"



Water Saving Tip of the Month

"Turn off the tap whilst brushing your teeth."



Key Information



Remembrance Day

Our Reception children learnt all about Remembrance Day. They found out that poppies are worn to remember the soldiers who fought for our country. They created their own poppies to make a class poppy wreath, took this to lay at the Cenotaph and took part in two minutes silence to respect the soldiers. Well done Reception!



Year 3 Operation Orphan Visit

Year 3 were fortunate enough to have Operation Orphan visit them before half term to discuss how they support children who have suffered due to a natural disaster. The children are very excited to be working with the charity over this term!



Councillors visit Nursery

Councillor Deakin and Councillor Hislop visited our Nursery children to talk to them about our community. The children made posters explaining what they like to do in the local area and these have been placed in the Idlewells Shopping Centre.



Eco Ambassadors Wormery

Our Eco Ambassadors had an exciting session with Ashley from 'Feeding Ashfield'. They made their own wormeries! These are now proudly in each classroom to provide good plant food for our planters around school and provide somewhere to put food scraps instead of the bin. The children showed excellent care for the environment and its creatures.



PTA Rainbow Raffle Reminder

Don't forget to come to school in your year groups colour with a donation of the same colour on Friday the 6th of December!

Parking

We ask that you please do not park on the double yellow lines outside school or in the Bathroom shop car park. If you park on any residential streets please park sensibly and do not block driveways. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Panto Trip Reminder

Our annual trip to the Palace theatre to see the pantomime is next Thursday 5th December, please make payments on ParentPay. If you have not ordered a school packed lunch, send your child to school with a packed lunch from home on this day!

Upcoming dates for the diary

Whole School Panto Trip – 5th December
PTA Rainbow Day – 6th December
EYFS Nativity – 10th December 2:30pm
KS1 Nativity – 11th December 10:00am
EYFS Nativity – 12th December 9:30am
KS1 Nativity 12th December 5:00pm
Christmas Jumper Day – 12th December
Christmas Dinner Day – 16th December
Carols on the Playground – 20th December

Inset Days for 2024/2025

Monday 24th February 2025
Monday 28th July 2025
Tuesday 29th July 2025



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97
DAYS

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

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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