



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter Volume 11 – Thursday 28th November 2024

Closed – PD Day – Friday 29th November

Just a little reminder that tomorrow is a training day and so school will be closed. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday.

Year 5 and 6 Trial Parkrun

Wednesday morning saw the children from Years 5 and 6 take part in trialling a new Junior Parkrun course, that is due to be up and running in Spennymoor from January 2025. Despite a very cold and frosty start, every child completed their three laps with great energy and enthusiasm and it is safe to say that we could not be prouder of how they handled themselves. Running might not be for everyone but the determination and resilience shown was amazing. The organisers were keen to pass on how well-behaved and impressive our children were, so well done to all who took part! If you are interested in making this a regular event for your child or even the whole family, we will be sharing details of how to register in the very near future.

Christmas Post Box

Children can post their Christmas cards from Monday 2nd December. Each class will have their own post box in their classroom. Please make sure that all cards have name and class on.

Road Safety Update

We are thrilled to let you know that our Road Crossing Patrol will be in place on Durham Road from Tuesday 3rd December. The children will recognise as a familiar face as the patrol will be Liz, who also works in our kitchen. Please use this fantastic crossing to ensure that everyone is kept safe.

Please also remember to park considerately on the roads surrounding the school and ensure that children are safely getting out of the cars. We have been informed that children are opening car doors onto oncoming traffic which is posing as a danger for all.



Friends of Springmoor Grange – Non-Uniform Day – Friday 6th December

The Friends of Springmoor Grange have been busy planning their next fundraising event. On Friday 6th December, the children can attend school wearing their own clothes. For this non-uniform day, our Friends of Springmoor Grange ask that each child donates an item of chocolate to be added to Christmas hampers which will then be raffled at each phase Christmas event. Chocolate donations can be brought into school on the 6th and given to Class teachers. It is sure to be a choctastic Christmas! Thank you for your ongoing support.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 29th November	Closed – PD Day
Monday 2 nd December	Nursery Christmas Crafts
Wednesday 4 th December	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 visiting Santa at Spennymoor Town Hall
Thursday 5 th December	Reception Christmas Crafts
Thursday 5 th December Friday 6 th December	Year 5/6 visiting St Andrew's Church
Wednesday 11 th December	9:30am and 2pm – Reception Christmas Performance
Thursday 12 th December	9:30am and 5pm Y3/4 Christmas Performance
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 16 th December	9:30am and 2pm Nursery Christmas Performance
Tuesday 17 th December	9:30am and 4:30pm Y1/2 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 18 th December	9:30am and 5pm Year 5/6 Christmas Performance
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Lunch and Party Day
Friday 20 th December	3pm Close for Christmas Break
Christmas Holidays	
Monday 6th January 2025	Children back to school

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.



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

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This week in Elm Class...

In DT we have been using our knowledge of slider and lever mechanisms to design a moving parts story book to tell the story of Humpty Dumpty.



In Art we have continued to work collaboratively to create a class piece of artwork using our Superpower of Looking. We are nearly finished and soon our artwork will be on display in school.



In PE, we have been making Gymnastic sequences using shapes and balances.



In English, some of the class followed instructions to make gingerbread biscuits. It was a little messy at times but lots of fun and the biscuits were delicious.



In RE we have been learning the story of Christmas and why Christians see Jesus as a gift. This week we created Christmas cards to show the theme of love, peace and joy.



In Geography we have consolidated our knowledge of UK countries and capitals and we've been naming the seas that surround the UK.

