

19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

### Message from Mrs. Lowrey

What a fantastic way to end the week, with the sun shining and children outside playing happily! Suddenly, it feels like spring is certainly arriving. We have had a very quick week in school, it feels as if our first week back has flown by! We have had plenty of successes to enjoy, well done everyone!

This week, I want to say a well done to Violet B and Daisy C who have both made tremendous progress in their writing. Both girls have shared their work with me and I was astounded by the leaps forward they have made and both children deserve recognition for the creativity and enjoyment they have shown in their writing. I am so proud girls, well done!

Also, other children are making excellent progress in other areas, from maths 99 club to music and arts! Our reception children have done some super art work and writing as well and all of the class came to show me their describing words about "We are going on a Bear Hunt" – super work!

We have had some fantastic sporting events on this week and I am impressed with the children's behaviours throughout. They showed excellent sportsmanship in the cross-country event, good listening in the playleader training with Mrs Farr and excellent ability in the sport and joy training on Thursday. Phew! What a busy week!



### **Online social media**

Recently, it has been brought to my attention on a small number of occasions that some of our children have been involved in some unkind behaviour at home on social media platforms. Of course, these behaviours are not acceptable and although schools are limited to what they can do, I have supported parents on these occasions as I do expect Holywell children to know better than this and show the same behaviours at home as they would at school.

Should your child be involved in any online behaviour, please do not panic. In many ways, children are all learning on both sides and the internet is simply widening experiences that are fairly typical day to day and of course, children will make mistakes. Please do talk to us and I will try to offer some advice. Supervision always helps children to avoid making mistakes online or use of consequences at home to help reinforce the behaviours. Should your child be the victim of some unkindness, again, supervise and talk to each other as parents.

Remember, all children make mistakes, but when this becomes targeted or frequent or numerous – this is simply not acceptable.

As a parent, I understand the appeal for children and also the demand that can be put upon you to allow children on social media, however there are wider implications and there are age recommendations that I will begin to provide you in a weekly newsletter with the intention of trying to support each other as we navigate our children through their online journeys. I hope this helps! A thank you to Lucia who has researched some workshop and learning opportunities for the children in addition to their curriculum learning in this area.

### **Bus children**

As we are more settled on the bus, I would be grateful if you could speak to the children about making sure they tell the adult (typically me – Mrs Lowrey) and point to their grown-up that is collecting. At times, the bus parks in a place where it can be tricky to guarantee that I have seen a child go to their adult and it is important that I see all of the children go safely. In this way, please could parents also ensure that I have seen all children off the bus if they wish to speak to me. I completely appreciate this is tricky and has not caused any problems so far, but I do not want to take any risks. If you would like to speak to me, I would suggest waiting on the gravel and I will come to you as soon as I can.

### **Cross-country event with Roundswell**

**By Harvey** (This is Harvey's write up for his class, I have not yet received the full break down of results – well done Harvey for being class sports journalist!)

On Tuesday Holywell did a cross-country at Roundswell. They had to run across the field, through the gate into the wildlife area. Coming out of the wildlife area, they ran around the nursery area and through another gate to complete a lap. Everyone tried really hard. I really enjoyed when I won the race and hope to run again soon.

### **Winners**

Year 6

1<sup>st</sup> Callan

2<sup>nd</sup> Paddy

3<sup>rd</sup> Olivia

Year 5

1<sup>st</sup> Harvey

2<sup>nd</sup> Lola

3<sup>rd</sup> Thomas Morley

### **Holywell Site news**

You may have seen that Steve has been busy over Easter with the reconstruction of the memory garden at the front of the school. He has also smartened up the cross and is busy removing pots from the playground that are no longer fit for purpose. The thatch and the rooves are also now clear of moss and the school is beginning to look a lot smarter.

I am now pleased to confirm that the start date for the builders to be on site is Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April. They will be setting up their site and beginning with removing the chemical store and the concrete steps to the classroom. The asbestos removal will then be the next step. Myself and the teachers will be onsite on Tuesday after school to work on the other classrooms and map a plan for return over the weeks ahead.

## **West Buckland Open Day – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

Please see here information regarding the West Buckland Open Day. This looks like a fantastic opportunity to explore the school and seek further information.



### Open Days & Visits

Open days at West Buckland School.

[westbuckland.com](http://westbuckland.com)

<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwestbuckland.com%2Fadmissions%2Fopen-days-and-visits%2F&data=05%7C02%7Crlowrey%40ventrus.org.uk%7Cba92e2fd342346e070c308dc5fe005ec%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638490663120154560%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEkaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zopBE%2Bgfs%2FNFJLNNjSAy7TkuTIwlanKA79tXpZUFE%3D&reserved=0>

Links you may find useful.

[HANDi Paediatric app: advice for common childhood conditions - One Devon](#)

### **Diary Dates**

**15<sup>th</sup> April** – Year 5 Leadership training with Chris Farr

**30<sup>th</sup> April** – KS2 Lifeguard talk.

**1<sup>st</sup> May** – Year 2 Tennis festival

**7<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 3 & 4 Cricket

7<sup>th</sup> May – Proposed trip for Years R, 1 & 2 - details to follow

**10<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 1 Multi Skills

**13<sup>th</sup> May – 17<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 6 SATs week

**22<sup>nd</sup> May** – Wilcombe Wobbler cross country

**24<sup>th</sup> May** – Torrington Aquathlon

**27<sup>th</sup> June** – proposed date for a trip for Foxes class – details to follow

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> July** – Year 6 Taster days Pilton

**11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> July** – Year 6 Taster days Park

Other dates to be added when know e.g. Class trips, sports day, and leavers service.

### **Term Dates**

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Half Term – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 inclusive.

Last day of term – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

First day of the Autumn term 2024-2025 – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe - with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends - but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

## EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren'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 (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse - so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



#NOFILTER

## 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.

## ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations - creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other 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.

## VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely - but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).



### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.



### DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.



### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up - and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.



### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life - especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.



### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

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



## 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.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/en-gb/article/003016036922-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-I-use-it> | <https://www.europrivacy.com/en/03/how-ai-creates-biases-for-targeted-and-relevant-enforcements> | <https://www.nos.com/2023/04/16/snapchat-locates-sharing-challenge/> | <https://help.snapchat.com/en-gb/article/0030160644>



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## School Uniform

<https://schoolthreads.org/collections/holywell-c-of-e>

PE T-shirts will still be available to purchase from school.

## Ventrus Job Vacancies

<https://ventrus.current-vacancies.com/v?id=VENTRUSMUL&t=Ventrus-Careers>

Including vacancies at local schools.

## Free School Meals

### **Check if your child can get free school meals and additional funding support.**

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals.

However, parents and guardians are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support learning.

From year 3 onwards, children whose parents are getting any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

### How to apply

Apply through the [Devon Citizens Portal](#). This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

## School Transport

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-and-college-transport/>

[School and college transport –](#)

[Education and Families](#)

School transport information,  
including free school transport.

[www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk)

## **NEW Privacy Notices – November 2023**

### **Important information**

Ventrus main privacy notice can be found at <https://ventrus.org.uk/our-people/privacy-notices/>

Ventrus pupil privacy notice can be found at <https://ventrus.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Pupil-Privacy-Notice-2022-23-Academy-Ventrus-Nov-22.pdf>

