

TEMPLE MILL TIMES



Friday 3rd October 2025 Issue no. 5

Message from Mrs Willson

As we settle into school life, we have reached the point where our lost property has built up. We are currently sorting out the items and any with names will make their way back to the children. Can I ask that all items are named as this makes it so much easier to match owner to item.

Next week, we have our Harvest festival where we will be holding an assembly and supporting Medway food bank. We would appreciate any donations towards the Harvest celebrations and this wonderful charity. In 2024, they were able to give out 4,800 food parcels and helped feed over 6,400 children. In what are difficult times economically, one small item can make such a difference. Here are items that are sorely needed.



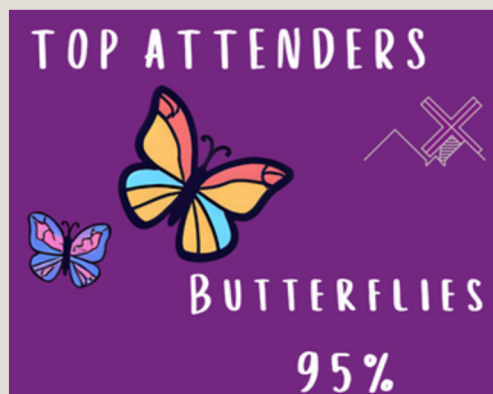
FOOD & DRINK:

- Pasta sauce
- Instant mash
- Tinned ham or corned beef
- Tinned 'meals with meat' such as pies, chilli or Bolognese
- Tinned fruit
- Fruit juice – long-life
- Squash/Soft drinks – small bottles
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned tomatoes
- Instant soup/Cup-a-Soup
- Sugar – 500g/small packs
- Instant coffee
- Tinned vegetables

Attendance

Our class winners this week and Temple the Cat are Butterflies with 95%!

At the end of every term, we will be awarding the termly attendance winners with a cookies and milk treat. (All dietary requirements will be accommodated)



Upcoming dates:



Term 1

- 7th October - Harvest Assembly
- 14th October - School tours for new entrants
- 15th October - Height and Weight checks YR and Y6
- 15th October - Art Gallery Opening for Nursery, YR, Y1 and Y2 2:45pm - 3:15pm
- 16th October - School tours for new entrants
- 17th October - Art Gallery for Y3 - 6 9am - 9:30
- 17th October - Last day of term 1

Term 2

- 20th November - school tours for new entrants
- 27th November - school tours for new entrants
- 11th December at 9:30am - iRock concert
- 17th December - PANTO
- 18th December - Christmas Discos
- TBC - Christmas nativities and performances
- 19th December - Term ends



40 Book Challenge

Every class has set a 40 book challenge over the year, which is around one book for every school week. We are hoping to challenge each other to read more and read widely. We have our first certificates this week with two children already reading 10 books!



Celebrating achievements



We are really proud of all our children achieve when they are in school, but also want to celebrate achievements outside of school. Reynard has won a trophy for his achievements in football. Please send in any pictures of successes into school office as we would like to create an area where these moments are recognised.



Year 6 enjoyed a visit from two magistrates on Monday. They learnt about the two types of court systems- the Crown Court and the Magistrates Court. They enjoyed listening to what life is like working as a magistrate, taking part in a role play activity and asking questions. It was a very enjoyable and purposeful afternoon.



Celebration Corner

Our stars this week are

Meerkat

Jayden and Henry

Jaguar

Evie and Dolly

Cheetah

Leo and Jayden

Leopards

AJ and Harlee-Mae

Lions

Olivia and Eloho

Tigers

Gracie and Jashmika





House point winners this week



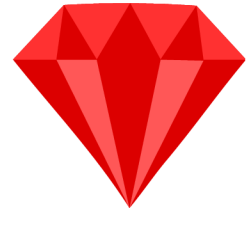
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86



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Safeguarding Station

E-safety Advice for Families – Snapchat

Snapchat themselves specify an age restriction of 13+ so no primary-aged children should be using the platform, but we thought this information could be useful for our families.

“What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Snapchat

As one of the most popular messaging apps available, Snapchat sees an enormous amount of usage across the globe – with a significant number of those utilising the platform being under 18. For that reason, it’s important to understand the potential risks to younger users when spending time on this app.

Of course, it can be difficult to identify every hazard associated with the platform, let alone what can be done to mitigate these concerns. Our guide lays out the key online safety risks of Snapchat, as well as how to safeguard young people while they use the app.

Grab our guide below!

National Online Safety”

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 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 ‘Snapstaps’ – 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 or language – 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 ‘beauty’ 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 added 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 to send inappropriate messages, 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 misrepresenting to 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 sexting and blackmail before children sign up. If they’re sure into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally 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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