



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2024

ABBOTSWELD PRIMARY ACADEMY



What a wonderful term it has been at Abbotsweld Primary Academy! As we approach the festive season, we want to take this opportunity to celebrate the exciting activities our children have experienced, share our appreciation for your continued support, and thank you for your invaluable feedback.

Celebrating Our 50 Things Adventures

This term has been packed with opportunities for exploration, learning, and discovery, as part of our 50 Things to Do Before You're 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ initiative. These activities are helping children build confidence, develop new skills, and strengthen their sense of self—an important part of their journey at Abbotsweld Primary Academy.

Year 3 & 4 Explore Pizza Express

Year 3 and 4 had an amazing time learning about pizza-making during their trip to Pizza Express. From kneading dough to creating their own delicious toppings, the children demonstrated teamwork, creativity, and resilience—plus, they had so much fun along the way!

Key Stage 2's Trip to the Cinema

Key Stage 2 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the cinema this term. This experience provided a lovely opportunity for relaxation, social connection, and a shared love of storytelling.

Looking Ahead to Next Month

We're excited to announce that next month, our children will visit Harlow Playhouse for a live theatre experience and welcome a visiting theatre company into school. These opportunities will support creative learning, storytelling, and provide moments of magic and excitement for all involved.

These experiences are all part of helping our children discover their sense of self, explore new opportunities, and build the confidence to thrive in every situation.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Benson



Community NEWS



 CHANCE TO SHINE
STREET



IT'S
FREE!

- TAPE BALL CRICKET
- FUN, FAST & FREE
- NO EQUIPMENT NEEDED
- WEAR WHAT YOU WANT
- ALL GENDERS WELCOME

FUN INDOOR CRICKET SESSIONS AND GAMES
FOR AGES 8-16 | EVERY THURSDAY | 5.00 - 6.00PM

PASSMORES ACADEMY SPORTS HALL, CM18 6JH

RUN BY ESSEX CRICKET IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CRICKET CHARITY
CHANCE TO SHINE

TO FIND OUT MORE AND TO BOOK CONTACT
IAN.GRAY@ESSEXCRICKET.ORG.UK



Fundraising time

Please support us in raising funds for Abbotsweld.

You can support us and raise money every time you shop online? And the best part - it doesn't cost a penny!

Easyfundraising, is a free fundraising platform that lets us earn donations when we all shop online. With 8,100+ brands to choose from, including Tesco, Sainsbury's, John Lewis & Partners, Sports Direct, ASOS, M&S, Boots, Just Eat, and Booking.com, there's something for everyone.

Here's how it works:

Download the easyfundraising app,

Sign up,

Start your shopping journey and the retailer you shop with will send us a free donation based on your spending - with no additional cost to you.

Registering yourself takes just 2 minutes and all you need is your email address. I have attached our QR code which you can scan or please access via this link - <http://efraising.org/X1j5ISjppY>

So, why wait? Support by registering today! Download the app, join, shop, and make a difference!



**Sign up
and earn us a free
£1 bonus donation**

Scan, join, shop: To unlock the Bonus for
Abbotsweld Primary Academy Harlow



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

SNAP STREAK
97 DAYS

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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'.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



The National College



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



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.11.2024

CONTACT US

ABBOTSWELD PRIMARY
ACADEMY
PARTRIDGE ROAD
HARLOW, ESSEX, CM18 6TE

01279 630120

OFFICE@ABBOTSWELD.NET
ACADEMIES.NET

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ABBOTSWELD.NETACADEMIES.NET

FOLLOW US

@NET_Abbotsweld



Academies Trust