



# Bishop Aldhelm's C.E. V.A. Primary School

*Loved by God; United in Learning*

Headteacher: Laura Dickson

Deputy Headteacher: Scott Tait

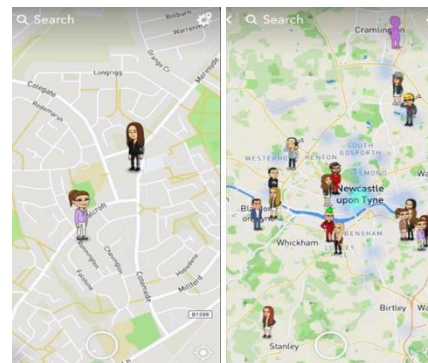
5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Advice regarding 'Snap chat' app - new 'Snap Map' feature**

Please be aware that 'Snapchat' has just had a huge update. It now shows where any of the user's (your child's) friends are at any time. It uses GPS to precisely pinpoint on a map where the users are, even stating exactly what they are doing (e.g. in a car if they are moving quickly). Your child and other users are depicted by a Bitmoji (see picture below).

Once you get onto the 'Snap Map' it will show you where your snapchat friends are and what they are doing there if they share a picture. The update also allows you to upload Snaps to the "Our Story" so that anyone can see your picture. It may sound like innocent fun but if your children have their location shared then people can potentially track them down. The map shows exactly where they are which has raised serious concerns. While they would need to know your child's username and accept their friend request, to access this information is often very easy to find it online.



### **Things you can do:**

If you do not want your location to be shared then you can set up a "Ghost mode" to keep it private.

To turn on "Ghost mode": Open Snapchat onto the camera screen. Pinch inward on this screen as if you are trying to make it smaller. You'll then be taken to the map screen. You will see your Bitmoji, (or your green silhouette) click on it and your settings appear at the bottom of the screen. Click there and turn "Ghost mode" on.

Ghost mode is only available if you have done the update. The update was effective from 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017 and some people have reported the update happening without notifying the user.

For more information about the safety aspects of using "Snap chat" and "Snap maps" please look at the following link:

[https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/introducing-%E2%80%99snap-maps%E2%80%99-new-location-sharing-feature-snapchat?utm\\_content=bufferd87f2&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/introducing-%E2%80%99snap-maps%E2%80%99-new-location-sharing-feature-snapchat?utm_content=bufferd87f2&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

Please speak to your child's class teacher if there are any concerns or further questions.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Smith  
Assistant Headteacher