

Friday Newsletter 29th November 2024

Miss Spencer's budding Firefighters!



This week, our Reception class was thrilled to receive a surprise visit from the Lancaster Fire Services. The children were eager to learn about the important role firefighters play in keeping us safe and were captivated by a special story about a firefly, which taught them valuable lessons about fire safety.

The excitement continued as the children explored the protective clothing worn by firefighters. They had a fantastic time trying on the garments and dressing up as real firefighters!

Fantastic Behaviour Awards

The children who have impressed their teachers over the last week are:

Miss Spencer – Kaylan

Mrs Stoves - Nelly

Mrs Walker – Sivakesh

Mr Rose – Aron



Non-uniform day

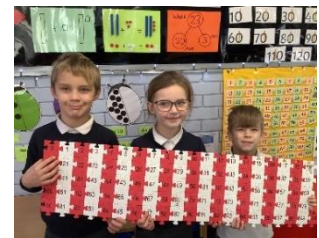


Thank you for all your generosity in donating gifts for the Christmas Bingo hampers. We are now well on our way to filling them up ready for an evening of festive family fun!

We hope to see as many of our families as possible at the event – why not come at 5.30 for your tea (hot dogs and cakes) and don't forget to bring money to buy raffle tickets - the prizes are looking fantastic!

Mrs Walker's mathematicians

This week the children in Year 1 & 2 have been talking about the value of numbers and where numbers fit in the number system (we call this place value). The children have used base 10 to make numbers such as 53 (5 tens and 3 ones). They have also been putting numbers on number lines and counting in 10s. These 3 children completed this number jigsaw up to 100, putting all the numbers in their correct places.



Superstars Certificates for outstanding work

The following children have all worked their socks off in class and have been awarded a certificate for their great attitude to learning:

Miss Spencer – Rory and Ivy

Mrs Stoves – Klay and Karson

Mrs Walker – Kir and Layla

Mr Rose – James and Nevaeh

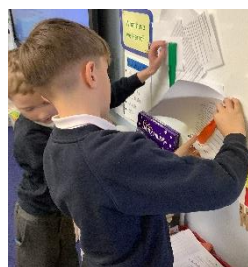


Attendance

This week's winners of the best attendance prize are the children in Miss Spencer's class. Well done everyone!

Year 3&4 Scientists

Mrs Stoves' class have been furthering their scientific learning on forces by investigating the strength of different magnets. As you can see they had a lot of fun with this learning – seeing how many paperclips a magnet could lift or how many sheets of paper a magnet could hold up!



Tuesday Poppy Group Meeting

On Tuesday at 2.30pm Miss Wilkinson would like to invite parents to come to the Poppy Group for a cup of coffee and a chat. If you have any worries or questions around your child's development, health or behaviour, why not pop along to this friendly and welcoming group. Everyone is welcome.

Year 5 Cyclists

This week, our Year 5 pupils underwent their Bikeability training. Over 2 days, they learnt how to ride safely on the road and learnt about the highway code. They practised their skills in the school playground on day one and some pupils were able to apply their newly-learnt skills on the road around school. Well done to all our Year 5 children.



Polite reminder about dogs on the playground

Although many of us are dog lovers, we recognise that no dog can ever be guaranteed to be 100% friendly all the time. Our duty in school is to ensure that we protect all children from dangers that can be foreseen. To this end, we have taken the decision to ban dogs from the playground. We understand that some parents will be upset by this decision, but we have to act in the best interests of the children. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Christmas Dates for your diaries

- Thurs 5th December Christmas Bingo 5.30pm doors open, 6pm eyes down!
- Mon 16th December 9.15am Nativity for Reception and KS1 parents and carers – no babies or toddlers
- Tues 17th December 9.15am Nativity for Reception and KS1 parents and carers – babies and toddlers welcome
- Wed 18th December 9.15am Carol Concert for KS2 parents
Pm Christmas parties
- Thurs 19th December Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day
- Fri 20th December Break up for Christmas



Online Safety Workshop

Don't forget our Online Safety workshop in school next week. It takes place on Wednesday 4th December at 3.15pm – just pop into the school hall for a cup of coffee and find out how you can help to keep your children safe online. All are welcome.



Regular Readers The following children have read at home 7 times (or even more!) and we are so proud of them that we want to share their names with you!

Miss Spencer – Rory

Mrs Walker – Gracie

Mrs Stoves – Klay, Lily

Mr Rose – Amaan, Hollie, Isabella, Thaaranka, Sarah, Hannah, Daniel

Well done children – I am so proud of you for continuing to read every day.

Fantastic work!

Children’s Centre Car Park

The staff at the Children’s Centre have asked us to remind our parents not to park in their car park. Thank you for your understanding.



Best wishes, C. Bright

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+**

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.

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 85% 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 innocuous 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 setting 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.

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.

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.

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.

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

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

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