



Portobello Primary School  
Weekly Newsletter  
22nd November 2024



**School Fayre and Christmas Shop donations please keep them coming in!**



**Achievement Assembly**

Our achievement assembly this week celebrated children who have shown "co-operation" this week. Well done to the following children:

**Reception:** Ellie   **Year 1:** Finley   **Year 2:** Daniel  
**Year 3:** Ellyse   **Year 4:** Izabelle   **Year 5:** Charlotte   **Year 6:** Ava

**Celebrating Attendance**

Whole school attendance is currently at 96.2%  
Well done to Year 2 for best attendance this week at 97%!

**Dates for Diary**

- Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec - Whole school Xmas film night
- Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec - Flu vaccination - whole school
- Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec - 2pm School Fayre (donations from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> please)
- Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Dec - Y2 A Christmas Journey at Birtley Methodist PM
- Thur 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - Save the Children (Xmas jumper day/non uniform)
- Thur 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - Xmas dinner day (no other options available)
- Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Dec - Pupil Christmas Shop (donations from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> please)
- Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec - KS2 Xmas parties
- Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec - Reception, Y1 & Y2 Xmas parties
- Thur 19<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Breakfast club (book by Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Nov)
- Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec - Y1 to Y6 Panto Trip AM
- Break up for Xmas Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December!

**Rights Respecting**

Article 30 - Minority Culture, Language and Religion - Children have the right to use their own language, culture and religion - even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live.



**Free School meals**

If your financial circumstances change, please check whether your child/children could be eligible for free school meals. This is a confidential service! <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/7433/Free-school-meals>

**ASDA Rewards until Sat 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Parentkind - the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up and are continuing with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative - all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, until the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.



**Gateshead Catering Team**

We would like to share with you an update from our School Catering Service in relation to Allergens / intolerances (medical diets).

Over the last few years there have been growing numbers of children with food allergens / intolerances and the requests for medical diets have grown significantly. Some of the needs of children are becoming more complex and are outside of the 14 Allergens commonly identified.

As a Local Authority we have undertaken a full review of our risk assessment. Keeping all children, especially those requiring a medical diet safe, is our main priority.





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We also want to ensure that those staff involved in lunchtime service have the skills, knowledge and a greater understanding of allergens within our schools.

Whilst the catering service work diligently to source more ingredients that are 'free from' for the main menu a few children still require an alternative menu to meet their medical requirements. To ensure these children, receive the correct safe meal they will be served with a purple plate / bowl / airline tray. We will also be asking schools to ensure that a child with an allergen / intolerance is always identified to catering staff when they come into the dining hall for lunch.

Ensuring the children are safe is the main priority for all.

**Upcoming events**

Peter Pan Panto (Y1 to Y6) **Consent can be given via Google form: flexible payment available can be paid in instalments of £5 if required/ please pay in full by Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

<https://forms.gle/CQPyRvKFB7rejuCh6Panto>

If you do not want your child to attend the Panto, please advise school via email: [portobelloprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:portobelloprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk) or comment using the above google form.

**Children's Xmas Parties**

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - if you would like to pick up your child at midday to get them home and changed for their PM party, please let class teacher know on the day - to be back in school for 1pm

Key stage 2 (Year 3 to Year 6) - if you would like to pick up your child at 12.30pm to get them home and changed for their PM party please let class teacher know on the day - to be back in school for 1.30pm

*Lots of children stay in school and cannot be picked up, please send in party clothes and staff will support their change of clothing if required.*

**School Xmas Fayre**

Raffle books will be sent home today - they cost £5 a book, if you would like to buy a book/offer to family members please return the stubs and ensure you write your child's name and class on each ticket stub too, along with the name of the person who has bought a ticket.

Cash prizes up for grabs are 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £100 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £50 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £25

**All stubs with sold tickets to be returned to school by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December to be in the drawer!**

**If you do not want to purchase any tickets, please send the book back to school on Monday.**

*If your child is absent from school today, please and you would like to purchase a book pop into the office on Monday morning.*

**You can collect children at:**

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 @ 1.45pm

Year 3,4,5 & 6 @ 1.55pm

As soon as you have collected your children you can come straight into the fayre.

More details to follow re stall holders, school stalls on the day plus information re a special visit from you know who...to follow!



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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](https://nationalcollege.com).

**SNAP STREAK**  
**97**  
DAYS

## 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 '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.

#### 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 on impulse – 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 '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>



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