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Langwith Bassett
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering Achievement
Shaping **Learning**

Principal: Leica Carter BA (Hons), QTS
CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE

Thursday 22nd October 2026

Dear Families,

What a wonderful first half term we have had! The children have worked incredibly hard, settled into their new classes and embraced all the opportunities and experiences that the new school year has brought.

Online Safety: Snapchat

We are aware of some concerns around children's use of Snapchat and would like to remind families of the importance of regularly talking to children about staying safe online. Snapchat states that users must be at least 13 years old to have an account. We have attached an information poster for parents and carers which provides useful guidance around the platform, age restrictions and ways you can help keep children safe online. We would encourage all families to take some time to read the information and talk to their children about making safe and responsible choices online.



Harvest Festival

On **Monday 19th October**, we celebrated Harvest with an assembly led by Rev. Karen. We would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents and families for your generous contributions to our Harvest Assembly. We were overwhelmed by your kindness and support. All the donations have now been given to Rhubarb Farm, where they will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping us to support our local community.

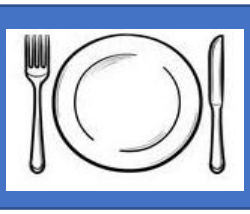
Polite Reminders:
School is **closed** on Friday 23rd October.

Well Done to
Class 4: 87.1%
Class 3: 97.3%
Class 2: 90.1%
Class 1: 95.5%
Amazing attendance this week!

STARS OF THE WEEK
For going over and beyond

Amy-Rose, Danica, Nicole, Poppy, Harlee, Rhylee, Joey, Amos

Dinner Menu
We're pleased to share that the following weeks dinner menu will be **week 3** so you can see what meals are planned. You can find a copy of the menu on the outside display board.



Upcoming Dates:

Monday 2nd Nov - School opens for HT2
Tuesday 3rd Nov – Class 4 trip to Cresswell Craggs
Tuesday 10th / Thursday 12th November – Parent consultations
Thursday 12th Nov – Books & Biscuits (Share a book with your child from 2.45 pm)
Wednesday 18th Nov – Class 3 & 4 trip to London
Monday 30th Nov – INSET Day 4 – School closed to children
Friday 11th December – Christmas Fair (more information to follow)
Tuesday 15th Dec - EYFS/KS1 Nativity (am)
Wednesday 16th Dec – EYFS/KS1 Nativity (pm)
Friday 18th Dec – Carols around the tree 1pm. School closes for Christmas Break – 1.30pm

Thank you for your continued support throughout our first half term. We wish all our families a happy and relaxing break and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting half term.

Best wishes,
The Langwith Team

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.

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.

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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