

# Ellington Primary News

*Believe and Achieve*

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to say a huge thank you for your tremendous support with everything we do in school. The Pro Strike event was a huge success and because of YOUR generosity we have been able to get new yard markings on our Key Stage Two yard. This was paid for entirely through the money raised with Pro Strike. Without your support the children wouldn't have this, so on behalf of all the staff and children - Thank You!

Next week, we will inform you and the children of their class teachers for the next academic year. We hope to confirm a meeting with Northumberland County Council regarding secondary school admissions in the coming days, we will inform you of this as soon as it is arranged. This half term we have several events where we would love to welcome you into school...



## Coffee Morning—Yellow Day

On Friday 16th June, we are having a 'Wear Yellow Day' in school. This is to raise awareness and funds for Cystic Fibrosis. All children are invited to wear something yellow on the 16th June and we are asking for a £1 donation with all monies raised going to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. We will also be having a coffee morning on the 16th, all adults dropping off are welcome to come into the hall and have some tea/coffee and a biscuit/cake for a small cash donation.

## Summer Fair

We are holding our Summer Fair on Saturday 8th July. Last year, the weather was fantastic and we had a brilliant day. Hopefully, this year will be as successful. Everyone is welcome at our Summer Fair so please tell everyone you know! More information will be shared shortly.



## Sports Day



On Friday 23rd June, we are holding our Sports Day. Nursery and Reception will have their sports activities at 9:15am on the school field. Parents/ carers are welcome to stay and wait after drop off. EYFS staff will share more information with you about the exact plans.

Years 1 to 6 will have their sports events from 1:15pm to 2:45pm. This year, the children will take part in field events during the week building up to sports day and then on the afternoon of the

23rd, they will do the track events (races). You will not need to move around the field to watch different events this year as the children will sit inside of the track and then take part in a number of different races. We will put some benches out for spectators to sit on but if you have picnics chairs or blankets, please feel free to bring those.

All children will need to wear their PE kit on the 23rd.

## Ford Castle

Our Year 6 children have had an amazing time at Ford Castle. They have pushed themselves to try new things, faced fears, solved problems and developed their resilience and teamwork. Well done everyone!



## Family Picnic

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## Attendance



Five lucky children had an amazing time at St James' Park. They were lucky winners of our attendance raffle as they had 100% attendance in the Spring term. We have attendance assemblies every term so children can 'reset' their attendance and win even if they have had time off previously. This term, we will also have some special prizes for those children who have had 100% attendance all of this academic year.

## Attendance 22/05–09/06

Reception– 92.6%

Year 1–92.2%

Year 2–90.3%

Year 3–91.7%

Year 4–97.6%

Year 5–98.2%

Year 6–96.1%

Whole School–94%

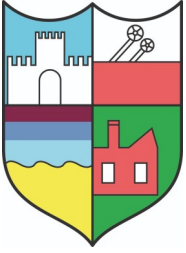
**Up from 93.5%**

## Diary Dates

Wear Yellow Day	16th June
Sports Day	23rd June
Summer Fair	8th July
Summer term reports	14th July
Year 6 Leavers Assembly	21st July (9.30am)
Summer Holidays	21st July
Return to school	6th September

*More details about events will be shared closer to the specified dates. Further events are being planned and more information will be shared in future news bulletins.*

**Mr Hodgson–Headteacher**



## Academic Year 2023/24 School Term & Holiday

HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE
Summer 2022	Friday 21st July 2023	
Teacher Training Day	Monday 4th September 2023 Tuesday 5th September 2023	Wednesday 6th September 2023
October Half Term 2023	Friday 27th October 2023	Monday 6th November 2023
Christmas/New Year 2023/24	Friday 22nd December 2023	
Teacher Training Day	Monday 8th January 2024	Tuesday 9th January 2024
Spring Half Term 2023	Friday 16th February 2024	Monday 26th February 2024
Easter 2023	Thursday 28th March 2024	Monday 15th April 2024
Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May 2024	
Summer Half Term 2023	Friday 24th May 2024	Monday 3rd June 2024
Summer 2023	Friday 19th July 2024	Monday 4th September 2024



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe - with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends - but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

## EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren'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 (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse - so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

## 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.

## 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 if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other 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.

## VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely - but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).



### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.



### DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.



### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up - and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.



### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life - especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.



### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).



## 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.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday