

## Newsletter May!

*'Live life to the full and create a better future for all'*



### Diary Dates

#### **May 2025**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>: Class Photos and Leavers

Group Photos

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>: Last Day of Term

#### **June 2025**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>: Back to School

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>: Science Afternoon

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>: Father's Day in KS1

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>: Blue Class Victorian Day-

more information to follow.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>: Yrs 3/4 Football

Tournament at Horncastle

23<sup>rd</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> - SPORTS WEEK!!

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>: Sports Day starting at

1pm.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>: School Fete starting at

3:15pm

#### **July 2025**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>: Barnes Wallis Induction Day

for Y6's going in September

Monday 7<sup>th</sup>: Banovallum and QEGs

transition days for Y6's going in

September

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>: Whole school Transition Day

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>: Mareham's Got Talent

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>: Leaver's Service

& Last Day of Term.

### Parking

When parking vehicles down School Lane while dropping off or picking children up, please be mindful about where you are parking.

We understand you may be parked up briefly. Still, we have some residents who are being affected by this regularly so if you could refrain from parking over or opposite driveways that would be greatly appreciated. Also, please ensure access to the school car park for staff to get into spaces.

### Wraparound Care

Starting after half term, JB Sports will be providing wraparound care after school on Thursday and Friday. More information about this will be sent out in a separate message on ParentMail.

Play Barn will continue to provide this on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

### Medical Appointments

For medical appointments, we now need you to complete a form before the appointment and we require proof of the appointment that has the child's name, date, and time on it. We understand this might be inconvenient, but it is something we have been asked to do.

### Water bottles & Lids

Please make sure your child has their name on their bottles.

If you need replacements, please pay via ParentMail and they will be given your order promptly at school.

Bottles- £2

2X Lids - £1

### Mobile Phones

Children are not permitted to have mobile phones in school. If you wish to discuss this matter, please get in touch with the school office. Also, a reminder that parents/carers are not permitted to use mobile phones when in and around school.

### PE Days

Children need to wear their PE kits to school on the following days:

RED - Fridays

YELLOW - Monday & Thursday

GREEN - Mondays & Friday Swimming

BLUE - Tuesdays & Fridays

### CLUBS

Years 1, 2 and 3 - Every Monday up to end of term

Years 4, 5 and 6 - Every Friday until end of term

### Absences

Please report any children's absences by 9 am. This can be done via ParentMail or by contacting the school office either by email or phone call/voicemail.

### Swimming for Green Class

Swimming will continue next term. The next payment block will become available the day we come back after the half term.

### Parent Governor

We are still searching for a new parent governor, if you would like to apply for the role please get in touch with the office

### On our premises

Smoking and Vaping on our premises is strictly forbidden. Please ensure you are away from the area. This is during school hours and during events held at school.

### Warmer weather

Please ensure children have sun hats & water bottles for when the weather gets warmer. Children will be asked to wear their hats and sunscreen on hot days (suncream to be applied at home before school). If you wish for your child to re-apply their sunscreen, please put their name on the bottle and they will be asked to apply it themselves.

# PTFA

The easter bingo was a great turn out and fantastic night. We raised £449. Thank you to all who attended and those who helped.

On 11<sup>th</sup> June we had a Farm Walk in Wilksby. The children had fun following a trail of questions along the route and then enjoyed a picnic in the field, sitting on a tractor, and we finished off with big game of rounders. It was a lovely sunny day, and we think everyone had a wonderful time.

Coming up we have the Summer Fete, 3.15pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June where we will have fun games to play, a tombola, raffle, cake stall, second hand uniform sale and more.

Any donations of second-hand uniform would be gratefully

If you are interested in joining the PTFA or would like to help at some of our events, please speak to the school office who will put you in touch with a current member. New members and helpers are always welcome.

## Next Event:

- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Summer Fayre

## Some photos from the Farm Walk!



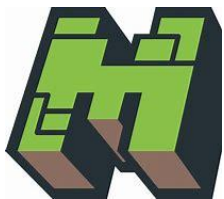


## Online Safety

Online safety and the troubles that the internet may bring is a hot topic throughout schools. It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online.

Talk to your child about the importance of creating a safe online environment, including keeping any log-in details and passwords safe.

We have gathered some advice sheets if you need below. You can also find some information and useful links on the Gov website: [Support for parents and carers to keep children safe online - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online)





# ONLINE CONTENT

## 10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



### 1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



### 2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



### 3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



### 4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



### 5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



### 6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



### 7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



### 8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



### 9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online; listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



### 10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

## EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily. Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

## SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

## DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

## VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking in to locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function 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 feature 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).

### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will 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 they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.

### TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

### 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 explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are 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.



**NOS** National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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# Attendance

## Supporting you to understand the new rules



A National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absences, including unauthorised leave of absences in Term Time, is being introduced following changes to the law.

These new government regulations will come into effect from **19th August 2024**.

### What are these changes?

If a pupil has **10 unauthorised sessions**, which is equal to **5 school days**, within a **10 week period**, a penalty notice may be issued.

This will come under 3 categories: First, Second, and Third offence.



### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:

**£160** per parent, per child if paid within **28 days**, reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within **21 days**.

### Second Offence

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:

**£160** per parent, per child to be paid within **28 days**. No reduced rate will be offered.



### Third offence and any further offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

**For any further inquiries about school attendance please visit:**  
[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance)