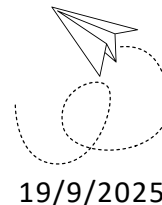




Fishergate Primary School

Newsletter



Head teacher's note

We had such a great turn out for Global last Friday - thank you so much to all of you who came along, bringing an amazing array of food from around the world. You also raised £415.43 which we will make sure that we put to good use

Clubs start next week and I would like to say a quick thank you to all of the adults (parent volunteers, teaching assistants and teachers) who run them - they all give up their time to do this because they want the best for our children - thank you to each and every one of you.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to Andrea (Y6 Mum and Friends stalwart) for helping me to improve the look of the newsletter. It just goes to show that you are never too old to learn something new!

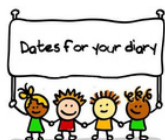
Just a reminder now the weather has become autumnal to ensure your child remembers their coat. We do go out to play in the rain, even if just for a quick runaround. Children in Year 5/6 go on the field every day and we ask that they have a spare pair of shoes to avoid bringing mud back into school.

Dates

Mon 22nd - clubs start and Miss Balls's Class cemetery visit

Thurs 25th - PAWS visit for Bodhi and the other two Y5/6 classes to the cemetery

Fri 26th - Autism parent workshop - 9:30am - 11:30am



Friends of Fishergate

First bake sale of the year on Monday
Year 5/6 will be hosting the first bake sale of the year. Please stop by the lower hall at 3:15pm on Monday 22nd September to treat yourself. Items are sold at 50p each, cash only please. We look forward to seeing you there!

Helpers needed: Year 5/6 parents and carers (and anyone else who loves the rush of bake sale!), please email friendsoffishergateschool@gmail.com if you can help the stall, a team of three helpers is needed. Thanks!

Donations needed: Families of Year 5/6, this is your time to break out your whisks and show off your baking skills. The money raised by your stall will go directly back to Year 5/6 classrooms for rewards and extras. Sweet and savoury bakes, store-bought items and fruit are all graciously accepted. Please send your donated treats with your child on Monday morning or drop them off at the school office.

Pre-loved uniforms and new donation bins
We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped earlier this week to make the Pre-Loved Uniform Stall happen. You all made the job light work and good fun on an otherwise wet and blustery day.

In other news, Friends of Fishergate now have official uniform donation bins currently set up in the side alleyway entrance to the school yard. We are accepting clean, good-condition donations of uniform items, winter coats and school shoes.



Phase group updates

Early Years We have had a great time reading stories with puppets this week, we went on a wild things adventure with Max and thought about which colour our feelings were with the colour monster. We tasted our delicious crumbles made with the apples we picked from the forest.

Year 1/2 Key Stage 1 have enjoyed a great week beginning our regular timetable. In English, we have been focusing on handwriting and ensuring children form their letters correctly whilst in Maths, Year 1 have been looking at length, height and capacity and Year 2 have been learning to add three addends.

Year 3/4 are excited about The Wild Robot, our class story, which we have been reading this week. Also look on Google Classroom for fun science at home linked to our States of Matter topic.

Year 5/6 enjoyed boxercise with Mr Cass on a very wet Wednesday. We have made a great start to our Harry Potter topic by learning about Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them in Science - also known as Evolution and Inheritance. Children investigated the ways in which their chosen animal has adapted to its habitat.



Other news

Meltdowns/Overwhelm/Shutdown Free Workshop:

Attention Parents/carers :

On Friday 26th September from 9.30-11.30 there is a free workshop running in school. In this session, we'll be exploring how stress and anxiety can impact autistic people. We will also look at autistic burnout, meltdowns and shutdowns and outline some practical ideas to help you and the autistic person you support.

NO DIAGNOSIS NEEDED.

The session can only run if there are enough people to attend so if you are interested please either email admin@fishergateschool.com or speak to a member of school staff to confirm your interest.

Bodhi Corner

Bodhi is enjoying going around school and on the playground and is gradually losing his need to bark at people that he doesn't know. He is still wary of strangers coming into the office and we are working on that. He loves his lunchtime walks by the river and next week we will be inviting children (two or three at a time) to join us on our adventures. If you do not want your child to do this then please let your class teacher know.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat 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.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. 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.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

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>

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