



Collective Worship Theme this half term = Honesty & Trust

Attendance this week is **98.54 %** (target is 96%)

6 Oct 2023

School News and Message from the Headteacher

This week, our worship sessions have been filled with singing, as the children have been learning and practicing the hymns for our Harvest Festival next week. This will be the first of our opportunities to visit the church this year and we are grateful to Rev. Bridget for all her help in preparing for the service.

Our Owls class had the first trip of the year, heading to Aldborough Roman Site to support their history unit. (Photos to follow next week.)

Thank you as always to the Friends of Gillamoor group who help support these valuable learning opportunities through subsidies to the coach hire.

Mrs Elsey

Parent Consultations

Thank you for the lovely supportive comments we received during these invaluable meetings. It is such a valuable element of our home-school partnership and we hope these prove valuable for yourselves too.

HARVEST FESTIVAL Harvest Festival

We are holding our Harvest Festival at St Aidan's Church at 2.30 pm on

Wednesday 11 October. Parents are welcome to join us.

We welcome **non-perishable** donations which we will be taking to The Food Bank in Kirkbymoorside.



Scholastic Book Club

We have created a school account for the Scholastic Book Club—they have a fabulous range of new books, as well as some classics. All books are delivered to the school and we have timed our order window to arrive in plenty of time for Christmas Presents.

<https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/gillamoor-ce/digital-book-club>

School receives money from every purchase which we can put towards our own school-book purchases.



Closing date 17 November

SCHOLASTIC
READS



*First the blade, then the ear,
then the full grain.*

@SchoolGillamoor

Gillamoor C of E Primary
School

**This week's
winning House is
Elm**

**Last week's win-
ning House was
Ash**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 9 Oct-Closing date for School Administrator vacancy
- 11 Oct-Harvest Festival, 2.30pm
- 13 Oct-Film Night 6.30 pm
- 16 Oct-Administrator interviews
- 18 Oct-school photographs
- 20 Oct- Y3/4 Girls Football, Ryedale
- 20 Oct-Stay and Play 9.30am-11.00am
- 22 Oct-Domino Drive, Fadmoor Village Hall 2.00pm-4.00pm
- 25 Oct-Pickering Castle Wrens
- 26 Oct-Influenza Vaccinations
- 27 Oct- Y5/6 Girls Football, Ryedale.
- 27 Oct-break up
- 6 Nov—Return to school



The first event will be Friday 13th October with our first Cinema night. Please come dressed nice and cozy in pj's and bring pillows and blankets. We are also looking for someone to design a logo for the FOGS group so if you can or know of anyone who might be able to help us with this please let us know.

Reception places for 2024

We are holding some stay and play sessions for anyone who is considering applying for a place for their child for September 2024 entry to Reception.

Friday 20 October 9.30 am—11.00 am
Wednesday 15 November 1.15 pm—2.45 pm
Tuesday 5 December 1.15 pm—2.45 pm

Please call to book a place and pass on to friends who may be interested.



Appointments

We are having an increasing number of pupils missing school due to dental, optician and medical appointments. Unless these are urgent, please can these be made out of school time. Even 1 hour of missed learning per half-term still equates to more than a full day missed over the school year.

Parent Workshops:

We will be running a series of parent workshops this year. Please see below for the topics we will be covering this half-term.

These sessions are free to attend. Please see the email sent this week, or contact the office to confirm your interest. We have scheduled the sessions for 3pm, but if we receive enough interest, we can look into running these a little later in the day, if preferred.

10.10.23—School phonics and reading with your child
24.10.23—Online Safety - What's App, Snapchat and Parental settings workshop



Staff Training/meetings

Inclusive Readers
Maths Hub

School Lunches

Week beginning 9 October is week 3 of our menu.

The dates are on the top of your menus.



Online Safety is a serious subject and as teachers, we are keen to help parents understand ways they can act to keep their children safe online. Each week, I will share a link to materials from the National Online Safety organisation. This week's theme is about Snapchat. Again, I would stress the age restrictions around Snapchat, but am aware that some of our young people are using it, so please do take the time to equip yourself with the knowledge.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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 'beauty' 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

Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/2020048662-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-does-it-work> | <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/what-is-artificial-intelligence-ai-on-snapchat/> | <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/what-is-artificial-intelligence-ai-on-snapchat/> | <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/what-is-artificial-intelligence-ai-on-snapchat/> | <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/what-is-artificial-intelligence-ai-on-snapchat/>

