

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hoped our pupils had a pleasant Easter break, and from the ones I have spoken to this week, this has tended to be the case. They have seemed unconcerned about the restrictions that remain in place and are tending to 'get on with it'. This reminds us how resilient humanity can be. As the Covid roadmap continues to be set at a national level, responding as it does to 'data rather than dates', we shall continue to move towards the usual arrangements in school, which shall continue to be guided by the information given to us by HM Government.

A limited number of extra-curricular activities begin next week which must be booked due to the current circumstances and our desire to continue to apply an abundance of care and caution. Additional events will be added after half term. If sports clubs are taking place outdoors and the weather is forecast to be such as to prevent this, then the club may be cancelled and we shall message parents and carers as soon as we are able.



We are a National Online Safety school, and you will find regular resources within the pages. Today we offer a Snapchat guide so you are able to control pupils' access. Other information and guides are available on our website [here](#).

The transition process has started in earnest, both for Year 8 and the new Year 5. The weeks of this half term will be spent liaising with the relevant high schools. We received from county the list of offers for our Year 5 entry this year, and I have written to all those parents. If you have a friend or family member who has received an offer for a first school or middle school place, please remind them that the deadline for accepting offers is 30th April.



Learn where there is wisdom, where there is strength, where there is understanding, so that you may at the same time discern where there is length of days, and life, where there is light for the eyes, and peace.

Baruch 3:14

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

A prayer on the theme of St George

O God,
Who didst grant to Saint George strength and constancy in the various torments which he sustained for our holy faith; we beseech Thee to preserve, through his intercession, our faith from wavering and doubt, so that we may serve Thee with a sincere heart faithfully unto death. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This week's theme was:
St George

Jesus said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

Luke 9: 23-24

Whole School Attendance

95.73%

Whole School Target

95.6%

Congratulations to the following tutor groups 99%+ for the week commencing 29.03.21:

5C2, 5E1

6E1

8C1



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Honour	Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honouring one another. <i>Romans 12:10</i>
The assembly theme:	The greatness of God	He has shown you his greatness among the nations. Exalt him in the presence of every living being, because he is our Lord and he is our God; he is our Father and he is God for ever. <i>Tobit 13:3</i>

We ask for your thoughts and prayers in the week ahead for:

The weekend	those who are fasting during Ramadan.	Monday	Her Majesty The Queen as she comes out of her time of mourning.
Tuesday	the Year 8 pupils who are in their final term with us.	Wednesday	those who have experienced bullying online and offline.
Thursday	Those in medical centres who continue the roll-out of the vaccination programme.	Friday	the teachers and support staff at Walkwood.

Picture of the Week





What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

Age Rating

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 strangers to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

Inappropriate Content

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to organise 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.

Damage to Confidence

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

Compulsion and Excessive Use

Many users spend vast amounts of time trying to become a Snap Star. Snapchat is offering a share of \$1 million, and the chance of online fame, to users who create and share the best videos. Children are therefore becoming obsessed with producing appealing content. The Spotlight feature's endless scroll of videos makes it easy for children to pass hours watching content, slowly getting addicted to the app.

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 screenshot first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

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 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).

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.

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.

Keep Profiles Private

Profiles are private by default, but children may want to make them public to gain more followers. You may wish to customise the settings so that your child's Stories can only be viewed by people they know well in real life. In SnapMaps, enabling 'Ghost Mode' (again via settings) prevents your child's location being seen; it also nullifies SnapMap 'status', which visibly displays a user's exact location for as long as they stay there.

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).

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.

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

Source: Status of Mind: Social media and young people's mental health; Life Skills – Children's Commissioners Report (<https://support.snapchat.com/en-US/help/relationships/snapchat-poster-review/>); iStock; Independent.co.uk (<https://independent.co.uk/news/technology/snapchat-poster-review/>); iStock; Mashable.com (<https://mashable.com/article/snapchat-status-map-map/#crucetrua>); iStock; Young People and Sexting – All Us and Behaviours Research (Instagram from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia)

Word of the Week

This week's Word of the Week:

bamboozle

What word class is this word? Could it belong to more than one word class?

How many syllables does it have?

Write the dictionary definition(s) of this word, using your own words.

Are there any synonyms for the word?

Are there any antonyms for the word?

Write four sentences, each containing the word.

Challenge: vary the type of sentence each time: write one as a statement; one as a question; one as a command and one as an exclamation sentence.

For example, if the *Word of the Week* were joyous:

Statement: Xavier is feeling joyous this morning.

Question: Does that music sound joyous to you?

Command: Make yourself look a little more joyous.

Exclamation: What a joyous evening!

Show your tutor your notes on Word of the Week and receive a merit for answering the questions above!

Keeping children safe

The following information concerns how we continue to ensure that pupils are cared for within our school:

Early help: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/19c6-Early%20Help%20Offer.pdf>

E-safety: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/E-Safety>

Anti-bullying: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/f2c9-Anti-bullying%20Policy.pdf>

Attendance: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/53d7-Attendance%202018.pdf>

Prevent: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/25a5-Prevent%20Policy%202019.pdf>

Safeguarding: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection>
<https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/a297-Safeguarding%20Policy%202019.pdf>

Relationships and Sex Education: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/9ca0-Relationships%20and%20Sex%20Education%20Policy%202019.pdf>



[Check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms](#)

[Track and trace](#)

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.



Epraise Update

Points This Week: By College





Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2021	Monday 3rd May	May Day Bank Holiday
	Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June	Half Term
	Wednesday 21 July	End of Term
	Thursday 2 September	Staff Development Day
	Friday 3 September	Staff Development Day
	Monday 6 September	First day of the Autumn Term
	Friday 22 October	Staff Development Day
	Monday 25 to Friday 29 October	Half Term
	Friday 17 December	End of Term
2022	Tuesday 4 January	Staff Development Day
	Wednesday 5 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Monday 21 to Friday 25 February	Half Term
	Friday 8 April	End of Term
	Monday 25 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 26 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June	Half Term
	Friday 22 July	End of Term