

WOODHAM BURN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 13TH DECEMBER 2024

WWW.WOODHAMBURNPRIMARY.DURHAM.SCH.UK

Message from Mr Sparrow

Hello everyone,

Christmas is nearly upon us, and the children are clearly beginning to feel the festive spirit! We have so many exciting events planned for next week:

Christmas Dinner on Wednesday.

Whole-school caroling on Friday.

Our Christmas fair on Tuesday evening, which will raise money for play equipment for the yard.

In addition to these, there are many other exciting activities happening in each year group.

Glow

On Thursday, the whole school travelled to the Glow to enjoy a festive treat. It was a fantastic day! We loved seeing the smiles on all the children's faces, and it was wonderful to watch local performers on stage.

Experiences like this can be truly inspiring for our children.

A big thank you to everyone involved for making it such an amazing day!

Christmas Fair

The Christmas fair is fast approaching and we are so excited to welcome you all, There is so much going on, new games, Santa's grotto, refreshments, a gift stall, choir performance and so much more.

We are still looking for donations of the following items - Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be left at main reception.

- Bottle bar items (things like alcohol, smellies, anything that comes in a bottle or jar)
- Cakes
- Raffle prizes

Please note that the Santa grotto is a free event for the children, there will be a donation bucket for if you wish to make a donation however, please note that this is not expected and is completely optional.

Just a reminder - The fair is after school on Tuesday 17th December. As always, any help is appreciated. We look forward to seeing you all there. Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity.

Miss Cain

Driving

Can I please ask that people with cars are mindful of young people walking along Humphrey close. The road itself is 30mph but it is also filled with cars and young people at busy times. The very last thing any of us would want is for children to be hurt as a result of driving a little to quickly in a built-up area.

Keep Clear of our school keep clears



After School Clubs

Watch this space for new after school clubs. The Spring clubs will include activities such as Circus club and sewing. We are excited to provide a variety of extra curricular experiences for everyone to enjoy.

Key Dates – Autumn 2

16/12/24 – Year 1 and 2 Christmas Show (**New Dates**)

17/12/24 – Christmas fair

18/12/24 – Christmas Dinner day (Christmas Jumpers)

18/12/24 – Nursery and reception Christmas Day (**New dates**)

19/12/24 – Disco/Party Day (Christmas Jumpers)

20/12/24 – Break for Christmas

6/1/25 – Training day

7/1/25 – Return to school

Design Technology

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION COMPETITION

Whether you're into crafting, textiles, electrical systems, woodwork or moving mechanisms, we want to see your most creative homemade Christmas tree decorations.

These will go on our school Christmas Tree.

All entries must be handed into the school office and have your **name and year group clearly labelled**.

Closing Date: Monday 16th December

The winner from each age category will be announced in assembly on Friday 20th December.

Age Categories

Nursery and Reception

Year 1 and Year 2

Year 3 and Year 4

Year 5 and Year 6

WOODHAM BURN'S

2024 CHRISTMAS FAIR

AN EVENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY TO ENJOY

FACE PAINTING, STALLS, GAMES, REFRESHMENTS,
SANTA'S GROTTO, RAFFLE AND MORE

TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

3:15 - KS2 HALL

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

SNAP STREAK

97
DAYS

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply 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.

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 in younger 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.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

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

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. 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.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®