WHITSTONE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter Autumn Term - Issue 4

MESSAGE FROM MRS MOULD

What a lovely, seasonal week we've enjoyed at Whitstone! From our Harvest Service at the church, to the fantastic creativity on display in the pumpkin carving competition, and finishing with our PTFA Halloween Disco tonight, it's been a wonderful way to celebrate the season together.

Have a fun Autumn weekend! 🎃🍂



Best wishes, Mrs Mould.

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 1

Monday 7th September - Friday 23rd October

Half term: Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

Autumn Term 2

Monday 2nd November - Friday 17th December

AUTUMN TERM DIARY DATES

October

Wednesday 21st October - Nursery Library Visit

November

Tuesday 3rd November - Smarter Smiles

Friday 6th November - Festival of Light Day

Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Day

Friday 13th November - Children in Need

Wednesday 18th November - Odd Sock Day

Monday 23rd November - School Photos

December

Wednesday 9th December - Nativity

Thursday 17th December - Christmas Dinner

Thursday 17th December - Christmas Service 2pm

Friday 18th December - Christmas Party Day

ATTENDANCE

Explorers	94%
Voyages	99%
Adventurers	97%
Trailblazers	85%



HOUSE POINTS

Atlantic	434
Sahara	432
Amazon	441
Krakatoa	325

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to....

Noah

Xanthe

Miss Coster

Miss B

CERTIFICATES



REMINDERS

As the weather continues to be chilly, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm and waterproof coat, including optional extras like hats, scarves, and gloves.



REMINDERS

PE Days:



Explorers: Thursday

Voyagers: Tuesday

Adventurers: Wednesday and Thursday

Trailblazers: Monday and Friday

REMINDERS

Any child with diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms must stay away or be excluded from the school until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours (the '48 hour rule') and feel well. If your child is sick at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home. They should not return for 48 hours to the school premises. We appreciate that this is inconvenient in many cases, and you may not believe your child is ill, but you will appreciate that we do this in all cases and it should reduce the risk of infection for all children in school.

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

We would like to remind all parents that holidays taken during term time are not considered exceptional circumstances and will result in unauthorised absence. If your child is absent without authorisation, it may lead to penalties under the Education Act 1996. Unauthorised absences could result in a penalty fine issued as £80 per liable parent, per child if paid within 21 days, or £160 per liable parent, per child if paid after this but within 28 days.

Please read the statutory statement regarding unauthorised absence during term time.



If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days.
If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days. Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.
Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.
Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.
Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

AUTUMN TERM CLUBS

We are excited to offer a variety of clubs this Autumn Term which will be free of charge and provide children with enrichment and social opportunities starting on Monday 28th September.



- Monday: Games Club
- Tuesday: Yoga Club
- Wednesday: Construction Club
- Thursday: Computing Club
- Friday: Scooter Club





Places are limited and will be on a first come first served basis. Bookings will open on Arbor on Wednesday 23rd September at 8am.

NURSERY PLACES

We are pleased to announce that we have spaces available in our Nursery for children aged 2 to 4 years, with funded places for up to 30 hours.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, please don't hesitate to contact the school office on 01288 341241 or email school@whitstone.cornwall.sch.uk.





SAFE PARKING

For the safety of our children and the surrounding community, we kindly ask that parents do not park on the zigzag lines outside the school or block neighbours' driveways. We have received complaints from neighbours in recent months, and we appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a safe environment during drop-off and pick-up times.

Respecting our neighbours and ensuring safe access to the school is crucial for the well-being of our children. We encourage families to walk or cycle to school where possible. Thank you for your understanding and support in fostering a positive community spirit!

THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL

Another wonderful week in school – learning, growing, playing and achieving together....























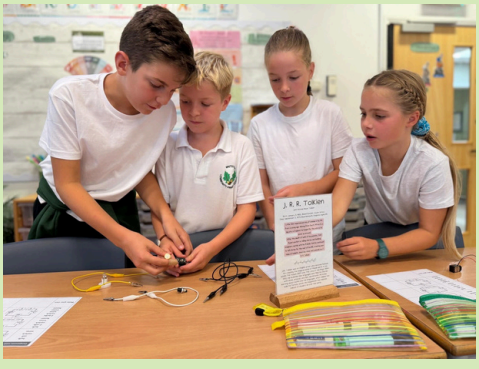












PTFA









PUMPKIN CARVING
COMPETITION
Get creative • Show off your skills • Carve a winner!
£1 ENTRY
PRIZE FOR THE WINNING PUMPKIN!
OPEN FOR ALL!
Entries to be bought in on
THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER
Ready for judging on
FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER
at the Halloween disco!















PTFA


Whitstone School PTFA
HALLOWEEN
DISCO!
Date:
Friday 16th October
Times:
KS1: 4.30pm - 5.30pm
KS2: 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Location:
School hall
£3 per child
which includes a
hot dog and squash
NO MASKS ALLOWED
FOR KS1

FUNDRAISING



Some of the school staff are doing a walk in Bude in aid of children in need. If you would like to donate, please click the link below. Thank you for your support.

https://challenge.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/fundraising/wcps-ramblers

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS



LOCAL EVENTS



HOLIDAY CLUB



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

NHS
Cornwall Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST



Please join us for our five week

Parent Led CBT Intervention

- Does your child frequently anticipate that something negative will occur and doubt their ability to handle it?
- Does your child frequently report physical symptoms, such as headaches, stomachaches, shaking, or muscle aches, before participating in activities or going out?
- Does your child often seek reassurance by asking questions like, “Will I be okay?”
- Does your child shy away from activities or events they once enjoyed attending?

If you answered yes to any of these and would like to join us either online or in a face to face group please register your interest by completing the link below or scan the QR code.
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/UvJzbabn9J

ONLINE SAFETY

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

SNAP STREAK 97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat

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