

# St Martin's Newsletter



AUTUMN TERM - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November

## Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the [weekly Gospel's](#) with their families.

## For Parents Next Week

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 10am:**  
Whole school mass to celebrate the start of Advent.

## St Martin's Stars

Well done to everyone who got a certificate this week.

Purple Tie certificates are given for children who embody our rules of being Kind Respectful and Responsible.

Nursery: Star- Munachi I  
Value- George P  
YEAR R: Star- Daisy A  
Purple tie- Archie F  
Value- Chimara E  
YEAR 1: Star- Amelia-Rose R  
Purple tie- Theo F  
Value- Romaisa A  
YEAR 2: Star- Teddy S  
Purple tie- Alice W  
Value- Patrick G  
YEAR 3: Star- Rosalie C  
Purple tie- Joshua N  
Value- David B  
YEAR 4: Star- Lennocks R  
Purple tie- Mila W  
Value- Pennie S  
YEAR 5: Star- Emily F  
Purple tie- Winter K  
Value- Eliza B  
YEAR 6: Star- Amelia O  
Purple tie- Isla A  
Value- WHOLE CLASS

## Elf Run

The children will be taking part in an 'Elf Run' to raise money for MWL NHS Charity on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**. Every class will be taking part and completing laps of the playground according to age –

**EYFS** - 5 laps doing a variety of moves i.e. skipping, jumping, walking, tip toeing and hopping.

**KS1** - 10 laps, the same as above.

**LKS2** - 15 laps jogging.

**UKS2** - as many laps in 10 minutes walking or jogging.

**Elf Ears** cost **£1** (payment on the gateway.)

Children will be bringing home a sponsor sheet or alternatively you can donate using the Just Giving Page:

<https://mwlnhscharity.enthuse.com/pf/stmartinsruncorn>

and all money raised will go to the charity.

## Key Dates For Christmas

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 10am:

**EYFS** Christmas Performance

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm:

**KS1** Christmas Performance

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December:

Christmas Dinner

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December:

**Whole School** Panto at The Brindley

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm:

**KS2** Christmas Performance

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December:

Christmas Parties



## Attendance

Year R - 96% 2 Lates

Year 1 - 98% 4 Lates

Year 2 - 92% 5 Lates

\*Year 3 - 94% 7 Lates\*

Year 4 - 89% 3 Lates

Year 5 - 93% 8 Lates

Year 6 - 96% 3 Lates

**ALL** Classes with less than 10 lates

**\*Well done to year 3, this weeks Dojo Champs\***

Anyone who comes into school after 8:50am is marked as late. Please try to be an attendance



## Attendance

Even with the cold weather we have managed to keep attendance increasing and it is at **94.2%**. Thank you for your continuing support 😊.



## Yoga Club

A reminder that there is **no Yoga club** next Tuesday due to training. All other clubs are on as normal.

## Safety Advice

This guide brings you up to date with the risks associated with [Snapchat](#), and lets you know how best to safeguard young people who use the app.

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](https://nationalcollege.com).

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

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'.

SNAP STREAK

97  
DAYS

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

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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