



Churchfield C.E. Primary Academy

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Executive Principal: Mr C. Dobson

Head of School: Mr G. Lloyd

Friday 26th September 2025

Next Week

Dates of future events are at the end of the letter

Monday	
Tuesday	Swimming for Year 4 and Year 5
Wednesday	Young Voices Choir - lunchtime with Miss Hall
Thursday	TT RockStars Club for Year 4, 5 and 6 - lunchtime with Mr. Ansell Harvest Festival at St Augustine's - 1:30pm start
Friday	Celebration Assembly for invited parents 3pm

Dear Parents and Carers

October is nearly upon us and it certainly seems like Autumn is on its way. That means it is time for our Harvest Festival at St Augustine's next week. As always, we will be collecting donations of tinned and dried food which we will pass on to the Rugeley Foodbank. If you are able, please send donations in with the children at any point next week.

Road Safety

Sandy Lane is a very busy road, especially at the start and end of the school day. Please do keep that in mind when walking with your children. This week we've had a few calls and conversations with parents who have seen near misses and potential accidents.

Parking



It is really important not to block the entrance to the school gate at any time. Access is needed for staff, deliveries, and possibly emergency vehicles at all times. If the lay-by is full, there is plenty more parking available at Lea Hall, which is only a very short walk away.

Learning at Churchfield



Caterpillars have been really enjoying their activities based on *The Smartest Giant in Town*, including making these crowns in the forest. Robins have been learning all about the digestive system in science and had a go at making their own version of 'the end product' this week! Squirrels have also been enjoying themselves in science, making their own fossils.



If you have anything you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours Faithfully

Mr G Lloyd
Head of School

Value of the Month: *Hope*

Christian hope is grounded in the character of God. Often, in the Psalms, the writer says to God: 'My hope is in you'. It is a hope rooted in the love and faithfulness of God. Hope is not wishful thinking but a firm assurance that God can be relied upon. Hope is not always spontaneous or easy. There is work to be done. As well as trusting God, we have to develop qualities of steadfastness in our own character.

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Psalm 62:5-8

Upcoming dates

Friday 10 th October	Hello Yellow Day in support of Young Minds
Monday 13 th October	PE Enrichment Day
Wednesday 15 th October	Parent Meetings
Thursday 16 th October	Year 5 and 6 Timezones day
Wednesday 22 nd October	Reception Open Morning
Friday 24 th October	Break up for half-term
Monday 3 rd November	Children return to school

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.

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'.

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.

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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