



(Article 28)



You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

## Friday Letter



3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

[www.billquayprimary.org](http://www.billquayprimary.org)



### Dates for the diary:

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - Break up for half term

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Inset day

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Return to school

### School Lottery

To purchase tickets please follow the link below;

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/>

All money raised from tickets purchased will help to fundraise for our school. Tickets are £1 per ticket, per week and the more tickets purchased, the higher the weekly prize is. There is a winner from our school every week!

### Online Safety Newsletter

Please find attached our monthly online safety newsletter.

### Reflectors

The School Council will once again be selling reflector key rings suitable for bags/key rings and zips at a cost of 50p from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

### Year 6 - Bake Sale

In order to help raise school funds, each year group will take turns in facilitating a monthly bake sale. Year 6 will be the first to sell cakes to all pupils in school on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Any year 6 children who wish to donate cakes or biscuits to this sale, please do so via the school office on the morning of the sale. Items will be sold for 50p each. There will be no snack attack on this day.

### Witch and Wizard Day

Children in Nursery, Reception and KS1 are invited to come to school dressed as a Witch or Wizard on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

### Spooky Disco (Rec - Year 6)

Children are invited to come along to our Spooky Disco on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Children in Reception, year 1 and year 2 will attend straight after school until 4.40pm. Children may come to school in their disco/Halloween outfit and should be collected from the Year 6 door at the back of the school by the ramp. Children in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 can attend the KS2 disco from 4.50pm until 6.00pm. Children should enter via the steps in the infant yard and be collected from the KS2 door at the back of the school next to the ramp. Tickets cost £3.50 which includes a drink and a hotdog and can be purchased using the SchoolGateway app. To ensure we cater for the correct number of children, please ensure tickets are purchased by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October. There will also be a tuck shop available on the night and children can purchase crisps and sweets using cash. Please ensure younger children bring cash in a clearly labelled envelope.

## Christmas Events and Dates for the Diary

Please find attached a Christmas calendar showing all event dates for your child's year group throughout December. Below is a table showing these dates and times with some additional information for you.

Event	Date
Non-Uniform Day	<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b> - Children to donate a prize which can be used as a raffle or tombola prize at our Christmas Fayre.
Christmas Fayre	<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December (Afternoon)</b> - Details to follow.
Christmas Jumper Day	<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> - All children invited to come to school in a Christmas jumper.
Nursery Christmas Event	<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December (Morning)</b> - Details to follow.
Year 3 and 4 - Coffee and Carols Morning	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b> - Parents and carers of children in year 3 and 4 are welcome to come to school for a coffee and carols morning (9.30am-10.30am).
Reception Christmas Party*	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December (Afternoon)</b> - Details to follow.
Visit from Santa	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b> - Santa to visit school and give all children a gift.
Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party*	<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December (Afternoon)</b> - Details to follow.
Nursery, Reception and KS1 - Elf Day	<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> - Children in Nursery, Reception and KS1 are invited to come to school dressed as an elf.
Reception Nativity	<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> - 9.30am start, refreshments sold from 9am.
Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party*	<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December (Afternoon)</b> - Details to follow.
Year 5 and 6 - Coffee and Carols Morning	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> - Parents and carers of children in year 5 and 6 are welcome to come to school for a coffee and carols morning (9.30am-10.30am).
Music Roadshow Performance	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December (Afternoon)</b> - A Christmas music roadshow performance will take place in school for all children. Parents/carers are not able to attend this event.
Year 1 and 2 - Coffee and Carols Morning	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> - Parents and carers of children in year 1 and 2 are welcome to come to school for a coffee and carols morning (9.30am-10.30am).
Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party*	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December (Afternoon)</b> - Details to follow.
Toy Day	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> - All children are invited to bring a small toy to school for the last day of term.

\*On Christmas party days, children may be collected at 12pm to go home for lunch and change into their partywear. If you choose to collect your child, they should return to school for 1.30pm. Alternatively, they can come to school on the morning of their party wearing their party clothes and have lunch at school as normal.

# Harvest Events

Event	Date
Reception Class - Harvest Stay and Play	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October (9.15am)</b> - Parents/Carers of children in Reception class are invited to come to school for a stay and play.
Year 1 and 2 - Harvest Festival	<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October (9.30am start)</b> - Parents/Carers of children in year 1 and 2 are welcome to attend the Harvest Festival at Bill Quay Church.
Nursery - Harvest Stay and Play	<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (9.15am)</b> - Parents/Carers of children in Nursery are invited to come to school for a stay and play.

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 [thenationalcollege.com](https://thenationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

With over 800 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.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**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 misperception, harassment, or inappropriate content.

**SCREEN ADDICTION**  
Snapchat boasts 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 small, red number alongside it showing the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to play. 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 make it easier for users to 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 image 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 2023, 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 their 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 images 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 sexting and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're locked into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, emphasising its consent rules. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

**BLOCK AND REPORT**  
If a stranger contacts 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 block 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 videos.

**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.

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

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