



## Wesley Methodist Primary School

Weekly Newsletter: WC 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025



What a wonderful week we have had at Wesley! The children have been magnificent and we have had a wide range of events taking place. We have had Freddy Fit in for a whole physical wellbeing day with every child in school and we have also had our cinema trips on! Throughout everything this week, we have had exceptional behaviour, particularly on the trips to the cinemas – our children have definitely shone as Wesley children!

### Worship

This week we have been focusing on shining like a star through our talents. This is always a wonderful focus through school where we celebrate the success of self and others. It is lovely to listen to the children to talk about the talents of others and how important this is. We also shared the parable of the talents with the children where we look at how people invested their 'talents' and did this to help them grow and develop, and how this was important to do rather than keep talents hidden and not to use them. Our children could talk confidently about how to improve their talents and use their resilience to consistently improve.

### The Parable of the Talents



### Freddy Fit – Wesley Wellbeing Day

Freddy Fit visits school three times per year; in the September to work with our new Year 6 pupils and reinforce playground leader work so that our Year 6 children can complete activities on the Reception and KS1 playground at dinner times; to work with our Year 5 pupils in March to prepare for their play leader role the following September; and then also to support our wellbeing approach providing physical activity for all pupils. This was an amazing day with every child (and staff) being involved

in physical activity and games to support positive mental health. Alongside this work, Freddy Fit also completed a dinner time activity on the playground with the children!

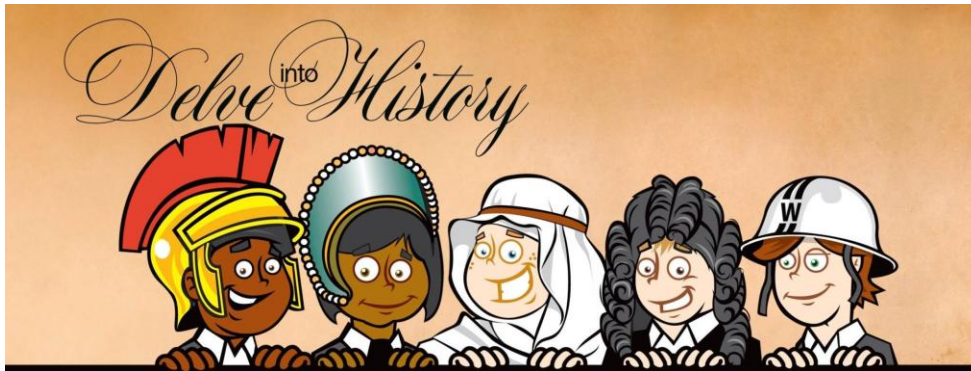
### Whole School Cinema Trip!

This week we managed to take the whole school to the cinema over two days. It was absolutely amazing, and the excitement of the children was wonderful! We took 124 children from Reception, Years 1 and 2 on Wednesday and then a further 179 children from Years 3-6 on Thursday. All of the children were exceptionally behaved, being exemplary in representing our school. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff for organising and managing this trip alongside support from parents and members of the PTA.



### History Workshops at Wesley

Next week we have 'Delve into History' workshops coming to Wesley. On Monday, our Year 1 and 2 pupils will have a focused day learning about 'nurses in the past' specifically looking at the role of Florence Nightingale and comparing her to Mary Seacole. This will follow on from their recent learning about Florence Nightingale and expand their learning in this area. On Tuesday, our Year 3 and 4 pupils will be exploring the Anglo Saxons, further deepening their knowledge and understanding of this time in British History and the impact this time had.



On Wednesday, the focus will be 'World War II: Life on the Homefront' for our Year 5 and 6 pupils. This is where the children will follow on their learning from the autumn term where they looked at the impact of the Blitz on Bury and will delve deeper into what life was like at this time. This will be an incredibly exciting week and an immersive learning experience for the children.

### Parents' evening

Don't forget  
parents'  
evening!

We have our spring term Parents' Evening coming up on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. This will be an opportunity to seek more information regarding how your child is currently completing the academic year, where their strengths lay and any areas for development they need to continue to focus on. This will follow our recent spring term assessments and the teachers will be able to share information from these with you. We hope you can all make it and further information regarding booking will be coming out soon.

### Easter Bingo!

We are building up to our annual PTA Easter Bingo night on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March! There are 90 tickets available and these will be on sale from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March for three days at the staff room window before and after school – however be quick as this does sell out quick! On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March we will be having a non-school uniform day and ask that all children donate an easter egg for this. We thank you for your continued support in all that we do, as all of these PTA events go towards raising money for our children in school.



### Attendance

At Wesley we see Attendance as crucially important to the success and progress our children make. The more time our children are in school the better progress they will ultimately make. We celebrate attendance on a weekly basis and each class has the opportunity to earn money for their end of year treat. Attending school more gives all children the best possible chance to keep up with their work, achieve better results and the possibility of developing further friendship and social skills.

Number of days off school a year	Percentage attendance	Number of lessons missed	Level of concern
0 days	100%	0	Perfection
2 days	99%	10 lessons	Excellent
5 days	97%	25 lessons	Good
10 days	95%	50 lessons	Slight concern
20 days	90%	100 lessons	Concern
30 days	85%	150 lessons	Significant concern

You can check and keep track on your child's attendance on the Arbor App.

**Our attendance winners this week are: Year 1 Peel with 99.6%**

Class name	Average attendance this week
Reception Sissay	98.1%
Reception Neville	89.4%
Year 1 Peel	99.6%
Year 1/2 Wood	95.4%
Year 2 Rashford	97.3%
Year 3 Garvey	97.5%
Year 3/4 Walsh	92%
Year 4 Lowry	92.5%
Year 5 Boyle	82.1%
Year 5/6 Turing	87.5%
Year 6 Pankhurst	94%

Online Safety – what to know about ‘snapchat’

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a ‘story’ (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat’s links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

## EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily. Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature’s scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app’s Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

## SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app’s ‘disappearing messages’ feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

## DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat’s filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their ‘selfie game’. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the ‘beauty’ filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child’s confidence or sense of self-worth.

## VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone’s number is in your child’s contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This ‘Friend Check Up’ encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless ‘Ghost Mode’ is enabled (again via settings). It’s prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don’t know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in. Additionally, it’s important to be cautious about Shared Stories as this allows people who are not on your contact list access to the post.

### TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn’t wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don’t post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat’s ‘Spotlight’ feature has a #challenge like ‘TikTok’: it’s vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person’s profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

### 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.



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Sources: Statista; Mind; Social media and young people’s mental health | Live in Line – Children’s Commissioners Report | <https://support.snapchat.com/en-US/help/relationships/relationships-overview> | <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/technology/snapchat-snap-maps-epworth-us-safety-commissioners-2021-young-people-and-sexting-17860466.htm> | Abuse and Behaviour Research Findings from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.