School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 2nd December	• **NO Qualitas KS2 after school sport club** • **PTFA Family Film Night – tickets £3 from school office**
Tuesday 3rd December	• KS1 Qualitas Multi skills after school
Wednesday 4th December	• KS2 Qualitas Dodgeball after school – FULL
Thursday 5th December	• Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am • Swimming Class 2
Friday 6th December	• Lunchtime Choir
Monday 9th December	• KS2 Qualitas after school club – Netball • PTFA Family film night – tickets from school office £3 each
Tuesday 10th December	• **Whole School trip to Buxton Opera House - Jack and the Beanstalk – THE DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT IS FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER** • **NO Qualitas KS1 Multi Skills after school** • **NO After School Club**
Wednesday 11th December	• Infant Nativity - 2pm in school • Qualitas KS2 Dodgeball after school – FULL
Thursday 12th December	• Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am -10.30am • Christmas Crafts and Jumper Day • PTFA Secret Santa – see details below • **NO** Swimming Class 2 • Infant Nativity - 5pm in school
Friday 13th December	• Lunchtime Choir

OTHER NEWS

- **ParentPay – Please check your accounts and help us by making regular payments to avoid balances increasing. Thank you for your support with this.**

- **Payment for the pantomime is due TODAY. Thank you if you have already paid. Thank you again to our PTFA for helping to significantly reduce the cost to families for this experience.**

- **PTFA FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT – MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER – Don't forget to by your tickets from the school office. £3.00 per person including snacks. Remember pyjamas!**

- **SECRET SANTA - Thursday 12th December** Our PTFA have once again very kindly offered to organise our **"Secret Santa"** event which will take place in school during the afternoon of Thursday 12th December. Children will have the opportunity to choose a gift and have it wrapped for £1.00. **Children cannot buy more than two gifts**. If your child would like to take part, and for this to be a success, we would be extremely grateful for donations of gifts. (e.g. unwanted gifts such as: toiletries, chocolates, candles, bric a brac etc.) We especially need gifts for men.
  There is a box for donations in the school entrance. Thank you in advance for your help.
  There is no obligation for your child/children to take part.

- **Infant Nativity** – **The Innkeeper's Breakfast** - Will take place on **Wednesday 11th December at 2.00pm** and **Thursday 12th December at 5.00pm.** Parents and Grandparents are all very welcome and there is no need for tickets. You may take children home following the Wednesday afternoon performance. Other children and those with older siblings will remain in school until normal collection time.

- **Walesby Forest Residential** – The next payment for the Year 5 and 6 residential is due on 31st January. Thank you if you have already paid. Please contact the school office if you have any questions at all.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 56813 or by email with any questions or queries.

Friday updates can be found in the Newsletters section of our school website.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Tuesday 17th December	Christingle Service 2.00pm in St Giles Church. Everyone is welcome to join us
Wednesday 18th December	**Christmas Dinner** **Class 2 to ARC Leisure for Christmas Festival – sports event**
Thursday 19th December	No swimming – Class 2
Friday 20th December	Break up for Christmas Holidays **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**
Saturday 21st December	**Cake and Carols in St Giles Church 4.00pm – featuring our very own St Giles Christmas Choir** **Refreshments and cakes after the service** **Everyone is welcome.**
Monday 6th January 2025	**Back to school**
Wednesday 22nd January	Cross Country Event at Whitworth Park
Monday 27th January	Class 4 to Young Voices in Sheffield
Wednesday 29th January	Class 2 trip to the Space Centre, Leicester
Thursday 13th February	Last swimming lesson for Class 2. Class 3 start swimming after half term
Friday 14th February	Break up for half term
Monday 24th February	**INSET DAY – School closed**
Tuesday 25th February	Back to school
Wednesday 26th February	MAD Infant Sports Event – Fun Run at All Saints Juniors – rearranged from 16th October
Thursday 27th February	**First Swimming for Class 3**
Friday 4th April	Break up for Easter
Monday 21st April	Easter Monday
Tuesday 22nd April	Back to school
Wednesday 30th April	Class 2 Multi Skills Festival at All Saints Juniors This Girl Can – Whitworth Park 930 – 11.30
Monday 5th May	**MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY**
Monday 12th May	KS2 SATS – English Grammar Punctuation and Spelling
Tuesday 13th May	KS2 SATS – English Reading Paper

Wednesday 14th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Papers 1 and 2
Thursday 15th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Paper 3
Friday 23rd May	Break up for half term
Monday 2nd June	**INSET DAY – School closed**
Tuesday 3rd June	Back to school
Wednesday 18th June	Class 2 Dance and Gymnastics Festival at All Saints Juniors
Tuesday 1st July	Highfields Transition Day for Y6 pupils
Wednesday 2nd July	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4
Thursday 3rd July	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4 Last swimming for Class 3
Friday 4th July	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4
Wednesday 9th July	Class 2 Sports Day at All Saints Juniors
Thursday 10th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Thursday 17th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Thursday 24th July	Last day of the school year **NO AFTER SCHOOLCLUB**




£3.00 PER TICKET INCLUDES SNACKS
BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY !
02 DEC
3:30 PM
XMAS MOVIE NIGHT
[FREE POPCORN AND DRINKS]
Remember to wear pjs and bring blankets!

Highfields School
BE THE BEST YOU CAN

Headteacher: **Mr A Marsh**

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Our ref: MJH

November 2024

Dear Year 7 2025,

We are delighted that you may have chosen Highfields School as the secondary school for your child in September 2025. Whilst places have not been allocated yet, following feedback from stakeholders, we are writing to all of our feeder schools at this point to let you know about a potential familiarisation visit that will be held to ensure a smooth transition for students so that everyone is confident and looking forward to starting with us here.

We intend host all potential Y7 students joining us in September 2025, to visit us for the day, on Tuesday 1st July 2025.

On the evening of Tuesday 1st July, we will be inviting all parent/carers of students joining us in Y7 in September 2025 to come to school to meet with key staff. There will be more details to follow on all of the above closer to the time.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M Hodkin
Deputy Headteacher

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

SNAP STREAK 97 DAYS

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'.

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.

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.

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.

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

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.11.2024