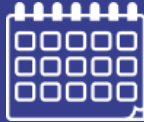




Dates for Your

DIARY



School Events

**Energisers – Year 6– Every Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursday morning—8.10-
8.40am**

Mental Health Week 3/02/25- 7/02/25

Young Voices Concert- 4/02/2025

Y5—Tower of London Trip - 25/04/2025

Y6 - East Mersea 9th –11th June 2025

Y1&2 Walton On the Naze - 27/06/2025

Rec—Hertfordshire Zoo 02/07/25

NEWSLETTER

A message from the Head of Academy



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful and restful holiday and that your children are feeling refreshed and ready to begin the Spring term. It's always such an exciting time of year, full of new opportunities for learning and growth.

This term, we have many exciting events and activities planned that I am sure the children will enjoy. From classroom projects to outdoor learning experiences, our aim is to inspire curiosity and foster a love for learning. I encourage you to check in with your child about what they're working on and to support them in their learning journey. Please refer to our school website, where you will see an overview of what your child will be learning about this term.

In addition to the regular curriculum, we will be focusing on promoting kindness, respect, and resilience across the school community. These values are at the heart of everything we do, and we are committed to creating a positive, supportive environment for all our pupils.

Some of our Year 3 and 4 pupils represented these values at Stewards in a Dodgeball tournament. They won two games and lost two games; we were extremely proud of their efforts and the way in which they conducted themselves. Thank you to Mr Loader and Coach Brandon for enabling this to happen.

We are also looking forward to our upcoming Mental Health Week as well as some pupils attending the O2 to perform at the Young Voices concert. Year 5 will be swimming every week this term and the academy will be taking part in Internet Safety Day and I hope to see many of you involved in the school life this term. Your support plays such a vital role in our children's success, and we appreciate all that you do.

I look forward to a fantastic Spring term ahead, filled with new learning, memorable moments, and continued growth.

Warm regards

Mrs Angie Skinner

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97
DAYS

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'.

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>

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

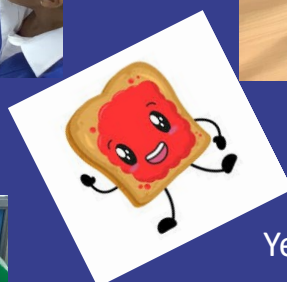
@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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



These children have been recognised as they are always following the Kingsmoor Way and the 6 R's. We are incredibly proud of all of them. Congratulations!



Year 1 have been making jam sandwiches to help them understand that to achieve our goals we have to follow the steps for success and learn by looking, listening and doing!



Safeguarding

Information from the National College:

The social media network formerly known as Twitter has undergone numerous alterations since its change of ownership and rebranding as X – and many of these recent developments have proved controversial. With any user now simply able to pay a fee for account verification, for example, the once-reliable ‘blue tick’ system has become largely meaningless.

It’s just one of several changes that have set the social media giant on what many consider a concerning path in online safety terms. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide provides a run-down of the most significant tweaks made to X; their potential safeguarding implications; and how to help ensure young people minimise the risks while they continue to use the service.

We remind our children to be SMART online

Online Safety

Follow the SMART rules to help stay safe online.

Safe

S

Stay **safe** online by not sharing your personal information.



Meet

M

Do not **meet** anyone who you have only become friends with online.



Accept

A

Do not **accept** messages and friend requests from people you do not know.



Reliable

R

Not everything online is **reliable**. People online are strangers and you can't always trust everything they say.



Tell

T

Tell an adult you trust if anything happens online that you do not like.



Be careful what you share online!

Stop and think before you share information online. Don't say or do anything that you wouldn't do in the real world!



Health Information

Head lice can be difficult to spot, even when the head is closely inspected. They're very small whitish or grey-brown insects that range from the size of a pinhead to the size of a sesame seed.

The only way to be sure someone has head lice is to find a live louse by combing their hair with a special fine toothed comb. This is called detection combing. Treatments to get rid of head lice are available to buy from pharmacies, supermarkets and online.

You don't usually need to see your GP. The main treatments are:

lotions or sprays that kill head lice –these can be very effective, but some aren't suitable for pregnant or breastfeeding women, or for children under two.

Removing head lice with a specially designed comb – this is suitable for everyone and relatively inexpensive, but needs to be repeated several times and can take a long time to do thoroughly

A pharmacist can advise you about the treatments available if you're not sure which is best for you or your child.

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters!

Did you know...?

In a school year, if your child is late every day by...

Your child would have lost approximately...

or they would have missed approximately...

5 minutes	3.5 days from school	20 lessons
10 minutes	7 days from school	41 lessons
15 minutes	10 days from school	55 lessons
20 minutes	14.5 days from school	82 lessons
30 minutes	22 days from school	123 lessons

Please encourage punctuality to maintain attendance

Attendance

This term

Year 1 Ghana: 84%

Year 1 Italy: 89%

Year 2 Poland: 95%

Year 2 Egypt: 97%

Year 3 Cuba: 95%

Year 3 India: 96%

Year 4 China: 96%

Year 4 Brazil: 95%

Year 5 Japan: 93%

Year 6 Kenya: 97%

Year 6 Australia: 95%



Kingsmoor Academy

Is your child due to start Reception
in September 2025?
Book a place on our 'Academy Tour'.



We offer:

- ❖ Vibrant and fun Classrooms.
- ❖ Qualified, dedicated and experienced staff.
- ❖ Fantastic outdoor areas providing stimulating learning experiences.
- ❖ Fresh and healthy food cooked on the premises.
- ❖ Our very own forest school!



Will your child have turned 4 by the 31st August 2025? If so, you can now book a place on our 'Academy Tour'. Please contact the school office for more information.



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Harlow
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CM18 7PS

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