

Our value this month is:

Aspiration



Reminders

Please make sure your child is wearing the correct school uniform. Complete guidance can be found on the school website. If you have any questions regarding uniform, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Remember that we have plenty of pre-loved uniform in our Unicycle centre. If you'd like to access this service, please contact Mrs Browne or Mrs Tyrer via **Pastoral ClassDojo**.

Dates for your diary

- 29th Sept- National Poetry Day
- 6th Oct- Black History Month
- 13th Oct- Firework Safety
- 20th Oct- Diwali



Catch that **sneeze**, don't let it roam,

Use your elbow, keep germs at home!

Yawn, cough or sneeze?

Don't let them fly,

Trap those germs, wave them goodbye!



This Week's Highlights

In **Nursery** we have now welcomed all our new children. They have enjoyed exploring their Nursery, finding new things to play with each day and getting to know the children and adults. We are amazed with how well they are getting to know the Nursery routine.

In **Reception**, we have been getting to know our friends and the school rules of Ready, Respectful and Safe. The children have been listening to stories, joining in with songs and rhymes, and practised counting in our maths lessons. We are now settling well into school.

In **Year 1** we have been describing the big, bad wolf and looking at the things he has done wrong. We have been identifying higher and lower numbers and ordering them in Maths. We have been looking at the properties of materials in science and exploring our local area in Geography.

In **Year 2** we have loved reading The Queens Handbag and linking to this to our Geography learning about the UK. In Science we also had lots of fun investigating materials to make the strongest bridge and worked brilliantly in our teams to test and record our results.

In **Year 3**, we have planned our prequel to the story The Dot and are ready to showcase our writing next week! In Maths, we have been focusing on place value. Ordering and comparing 2 digit numbers. In PE, we have enjoyed our dance sessions with Miss Lucy!

In **Year 4**, we have been using fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases to write gorgeous rainforest setting descriptions inspired by the story 'The Great Kapok Tree'. We have been partitioning 4-digit numbers in maths, sketching life-like feathers in art and learning about coastal and woodland habitats in science!

In **Year 5** we have enjoyed planning, writing and performing our own performance poems inspired by Wilf Merttens. We have included alliteration, relative clauses and model verbs to captivate our listeners! In PE, we have enjoyed learning skills such as the chest pass and defending in Netball and applying it to a match.

In **Year 6**, we have continued to work on our Varmint unit of work and started to produce some wonderful writing. We have developed our place value skills and understanding in maths and learned about some aspirational women scientists in reading. We have begun our World War 2 unit of work and as well as having a debate about appeasement, we've enjoyed learning about conscription, the blackout, the Blitz and rationing. We've been really busy!



This Week's Value Stars!!



Nursery: Miles C, Lilith, Samuel & Carter	Reception: Catherine, George
Year 1: Peter, Harper, Lockley D, Karoline C	Year 4: Lincoln D, Martin M, Gracie-Mae S, Elaina T
Year 2: Sophie L, Alaya H, Victoria D, Louie H	Year 5: Lila, Leo, Kenzie W, Taiwo A
Year 3: Jacob, Mason W, Nujin, Isla	Year 6: Amelia H, Eidenas I, Mathieson C, Kobe S

Weekly Winners

The top Reading Pupil readers this week are:

Leaderboard

Top Classes - Total Avg. Reading Lessons (SR)

1. Y3NO	5.4
2. Y4EH	4.5
3. Y5GW	3.7

The Times Tables Rockstars winners are:

Rank	Name	Rockname
1	Matthew N	Max Blackpoolr...
2	Isaac L	Jason Kotzen
3	Lincoln D	Chadwick McCann

Attendance

School Target:
96%

RKL 100% **RMC 100%**

KS1 –	Y1PT 95.86%	Y1LA 97.93%
	Y2TE 92.67%	Y2LB 94.84%
LKS2 –	Y3MC 93.45%	Y3NO 89.66%
	Y4EH 91.33%	Y4MM 93.33%
UKS2 –	Y5EK 93%	Y5GW 94.14%
	Y6JM 97.5%	Y6KK 95.17%

(This week's winners are highlighted in yellow)



This Week's Learning at Home

Word of the Week:

Nursery – new friends

Reception – special

Year 1 – Local

Year 2 – handbag

Year 3 – notoriously

Year 4 – temperate

Year 5 – relation

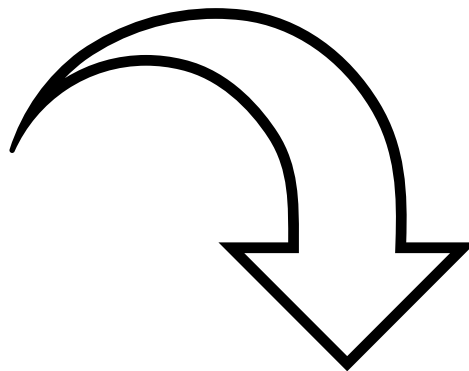
Year 6 – adaptation

The latest update to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' includes clarification that misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories are recognised safeguarding harms. Although they might seem far-fetched, for many people they are very convincing – especially when presented by persuasive influencers or sensationalist videos online. This guide unpacks the risks, including isolation, anxiety, and exposure to extremist content, that can arise when conspiracies go unchecked.

It also highlights how conspiracy theories can erode critical thinking and trust in reliable sources – including schools, families, and the media. With practical advice for nurturing curiosity, encouraging scepticism, and safeguarding children's digital experiences, this edition of Wake Up Wednesday helps adults to tackle tricky topics in a calm and confident manner.

Sources:

- KCSIE 2025: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards 2023: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges/filter...>
- Educate Against Hate: <https://educateagainsthate.com>
- Centre for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH): <https://www.counterhate.com>
- Ofcom Children and Parents Media Use Report: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk>



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>

With over 900 million monthly users, Snapchat continues to be a favourite among children and young people; however, with its ever-evolving features, the risks have evolved too. From AI-generated filters and chatbots, to disappearing messages and the Snap Map location-sharing tool, it's easy for children to stumble into unsafe territory. This guide breaks down the latest updates, including the Lens+ subscription service, and web browser access.

We've also unpacked the risks of sextortion scams, overuse, and inappropriate content that may slip through the app's moderation systems. With expert advice from online safety consultant Dr Claire Sutherland, this guide is a must-read for anyone helping young people navigate Snapchat responsibly and confidently.

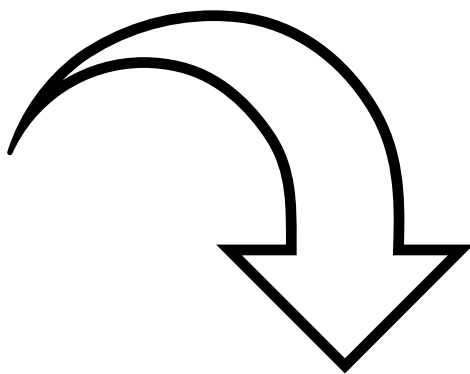
Sources:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/?lang=en-GB>

<https://newsroom.snap.com/empowering-content-creation-with-new-tools?lang=en-GB>

<https://values.snap.com/news/new-sextortion-research-gen-z>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/jul/22/victorian-teenagers-suicide-after-sextortion-scam-prompts-call-for-improved-education>



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.



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.



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'.



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.



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

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