



Welcome Back

We hope everyone had a lovely Easter Holiday and are looking forward to the summer term. We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Agnew and Mrs Remon in Year 3 and Miss Scott in Year 4 and Miss Wilson in the Stanton office, who are all returning to us following maternity leave.

School Crossing Patrol



As you may have seen in the local news, Pepper Hill School has been successful in obtaining a grant for a school crossing patrol outside school. We are

only one of seven schools in the city who will be able to employ a dedicated School Crossing Patroller to help pupils cross the road safely thanks to a new grant from Milton Keynes City Council. Following a successful application process, each of the schools will receive up to £5,000 per year for three years to fund the post. Look out for our recruitment details over the coming months.

MK Sapphire Spring Camp

During the first week of the Easter Break we held a Spring Camp which offered a variety of activities each day including sports and outdoor games, healthy eating activities, Forest School and Active Art. These were a great success with an average of 60 children attending each day. Look out for details of our summer camp.



Family Challenge Homework



This term the families of Stanton children were challenged to use a feather in creating a model which celebrated Spring. 50 families took

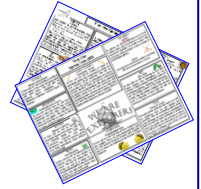
part and the standard was extremely high. Everyone should feel proud of their amazing creations. The White family were the overall winners, with the Quelch and Saleh families in 2nd and 3rd places respectively.

The Dance Project

Congratulations to the 15 children from Years 4, 5 and 6 who took part in an amazing showcase of dance at The Venue, Walton High in March. The parents and staff who attended were incredibly proud of their effort and the high standard they achieved. The Matilda Dance was the highlight of the evening and both schools have also enjoyed watching their performance.

Curriculum Newsletters

Curriculum newsletters will be sent out shortly via ParentMail. These detail the topics and activities your child will be undertaking during the summer term. The newsletters will also be available on The school websites.



Safeguarding

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document that all schools are required to follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

It is everybody's responsibility to keep children safe



Report any concerns if you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. Our **Lead DSL is Mrs Carter**, and she is supported

by six deputy DSLs who can all be contacted via the school offices. You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01908 253169 or email: children@milton-keynes.gov.uk If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.

When Should I Contact the DSL?

- To report ANY safeguarding concern about any pupil at this school (whether the concern is within or outside of school).
- To report ANY safeguarding concern about any adult at this school (e.g. staff member, placement student, governor, parent, volunteer).

Drop-in Session

We will be holding regular drop-in sessions to give parents the opportunity to meet the DSLs and discuss any concerns. The first of these will take place on **Wednesday, 24th April at 8.30am at Pepper Hill School.**

Summer Clubs

We are pleased to inform you the following clubs will be on offer next half term:



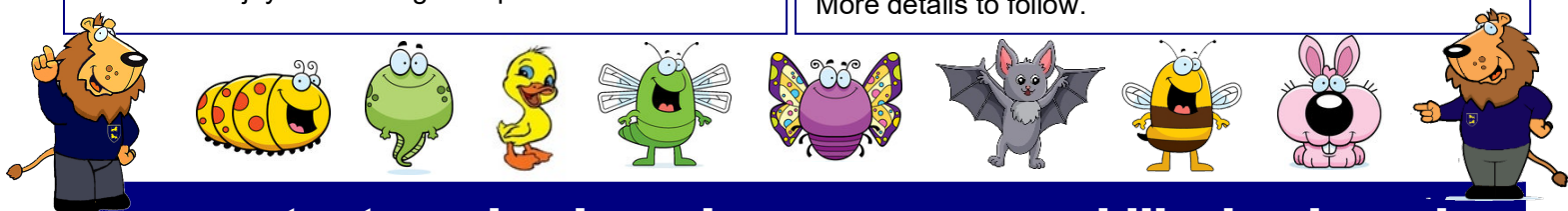
Stanton School

Summer Sports, Striking and Fielding, Rounders, Tennis, Squad Athletics, Badminton and Come and Try Dance.

Pepper Hill

Football, Dance, Athletics, Gross Motor Skills and Arts and Crafts.

More details to follow.



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, rivalling 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 to 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 'beautify' 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.

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's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

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.

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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#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: Status of Mind: Social media and young people's mental health | Life in Likes – Children's Commissioners Report | <https://support.snapchat.com/en-US> | <https://natsanity.net/snapchat-parent-review/> | BT.com | Independent.co.uk, <https://mashable.com/article/snapchat-status-snap-maps/?europe=true>, eSafety Commissioner, (2017), Young People and Sexting – Attitudes and Behaviours: Research Findings from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.



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