



# EDITH CAVELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Ambitious, Achieving and Nurturing*

Manton Lane, Bedford. MK41 7NH

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<https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/>

## ***Newsletter – February 2024***

### **A message from Miss Cooke**

February half term is officially half way through the academic year. This means that as children return to school after half term, they will be closer to going into their next year group. It is scary how quickly the school year, as well as 2024 is going past.

Around the Parent Consultations in November 2023, we asked parents their opinions of the school. We received 56 responses to this survey. I have included the responses received along with comments made on the school website and they can be viewed by following this link.

<https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Parental-Satisfaction-Questionnaire-%E2%80%93-November2023-Responses-V3-1.pdf>

One of the items that some parents raised that they would like more information about is the curriculum their children follow, especially in subjects that are not English and Maths. The information about our curriculum is always available on our website. By using the Our Curriculum tab, you can view how each National Curriculum subject develops and builds upon prior learning as a child moves through the school. <https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/skills-maps-by-subject/>

You can also view our termly two year rolling programme for each phase. 2023 – 2024 is a year B, so you can see each term, what KS1, LKS2, UKS2 and Foundation Stage will be learning about in each subject. <https://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk/about-edith-cavell-primary-school/curriculum/foundation-subjects-rolling-programmesks1-ks2/>

A couple of parents also commented on school trips. As a school we have always undertaken a variety of school trips and visits for each year group. This was obviously halted due to COVID. Since the pandemic, the funding available to schools to support visits financially, has been squeezed and the cost of living crisis, has caused significant financial difficulties for many families. It has also caused an unprecedented rise in the cost of coach travel and entrance fees. These increases in cost has made many trips and visits just unaffordable. To ask parents for £30 - £40 per child for a day visit, is not affordable for many families. We have tried, where possible, to undertake alternative learning opportunities including inviting visitors to school and also walking children to different areas in Bedford. Where we are still planning on a visit that includes coach travel, we will continue to endeavour to give parents as much notice as possible and also make a payment plan available to parents so they can spread the cost of contributions to visits and trips. One thing that has not changed with COVID, is that parental contributions to visits and trips are voluntary, but if insufficient funds are received, the proposed visit will have to be cancelled.

We hope to welcome all parents to school after half term to one or more of the many opportunities to come in to school and support your child. From Breakfast events, to consultation evenings and our Parent Showcases, we hope to see all parents. Please see details of these events later in this newsletter.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to me in the playground or make an appointment to come and see me.

*Miss Cooke*



## **Sponsored Skip - Thursday 29 February 2024.**

Last years Sponsored Skip was such a success that we have decided that our sponsored event this year will again be a sponsored skip.

Skipping is an activity that can be completed outside, can improve fitness, stamina and be fun with rhymes and games.

Do you remember some rhymes or games that you played when you were younger?

Please teach them to your children so they can share them with their friends, class mates and teachers in school.

We are looking to raise funds this year to further update and extend our reading book collection. We want to ensure that the stock of reading books that the children have access to offers extended choice, is up to date and exciting for the children to read.

Sponsor forms will be sent out before half term and we ask that all children attempt to raise some money to support this event as all children will benefit from the new books that we will be able to purchase. Please look out for the sponsor forms.



## **PE Kit and Footwear**



Across the school we have seen an increase in the number of children not having their PE kit in school on the correct days and also not having correctly fitting footwear.

It is important for Health and Safety that children are able to change their clothing into more loose fitting, less restrictive clothing to take part in PE lessons and even more importantly that they have correctly fitting shoes

that are appropriate for physical activity.

PE kits can remain in school for the half term to ensure they are available on any day that the class engages in PE activities, or if your child is part of an after school PE based club.

PE lessons are a vital part of the school curriculum and help to build a healthy attitude to exercise as well as develop gross and fine motor skills for life. All children need to be able to take part fully and comfortably.

## **Parent Governor Vacancies**

There are currently vacancies for parent governors on the Governing Body of the school. Parent governors play a very important role in keeping the governing body aware of the views from the parental perspective. They are a vital part of our team and I hope that there are parents willing to give their time and commitment to this important role. If you wish to stand for election for one of the vacant parent governor positions, you will need to complete a nomination form, along with a declaration of eligibility. Nomination forms will need to be returned to the School Office by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.



If you are interested in being nominated and/or want further information, you might find it helpful to talk to Miss Cooke or one of the existing Parent Governors. Alternatively, you can view Bedford Borough Council's website about Governors and their roles at:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/schools-education-and-childcare/school-governors/school-governors-what-they-do-and-how-apply>

## World Book Day is Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

We will be celebrating World Book Day by inviting the children to dress as their favourite character from a book. This does not have to be a purchased expensive costume, most book characters in books wear normal everyday clothes. For example, Horrid Henry is a school boy who wore normal children's clothes and Gemma in Jacqueline Wilson's Best Friends wore normal children's clothes. There are many book characters who wear normal children's clothes. Have that conversation with your children about who are characters in books that they have enjoyed and what they wore. World book day is all about talking about books, enjoying books and learning about new books, it is not about parents spending lots of money on costumes for a dress up day.



## Mother's Day Breakfast – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Our now annual Mother's Day Breakfast will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Children along with their Mums, step mums, Grandmothers or significant female carers are invited to join us for Mother's Day Breakfast on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March in the school hall. Doors will open at 8am. There is no cost for this event, but there will be a bowl for donations for anyone wishing to make a donation. Breakfast club will take place in Topaz room on this day.

## Parent Consultations and SEND co-production meetings – Mon 13<sup>th</sup>, Tue 14<sup>th</sup> and Wed 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Spring Term Parent Consultations, will also incorporate SEND Parent Co-production consultations, and will be offered as either face to face or virtual meetings. However, please note that **ALL** bookings are to be made via School Cloud using the following link. <https://edithcavellprimary.schoolcloud.co.uk/> Parents should all have their own personal log on to this system from using it in the autumn term.

### **ALL PARENTS MUST BOOK A CONSULTATION APPOINTMENT WITH THEIR CHILD'S CLASS TEACHER.**

The table below outlines when class teachers will be available for consultation meetings. We respectfully ask that parents make all efforts to be available on these days and times as having to arrange additional alternative dates to meet with parents significantly adds to teacher's workload.

Phase	Class	Face to face in school	Time	Virtual/ on line or Face to Face	Time
Reception	Amber-H Amber-W	Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March	2pm – 6pm	Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> March	4pm – 6pm
Key Stage 1	Emerald	Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March	2pm – 6pm		
	Jade				
	Aquamarine				
Lower Key Stage 2	Sapphire	Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March	2pm – 6pm		
	Ruby				
	Garnet				
Upper Key Stage 2	Quartz	Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March	2pm – 6pm		
	Opal				
	Pearl				

**All appointments MUST be booked via the School Cloud system for a face to face or virtual consultations.** This system allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments.

## **Red Nose Day – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

We will again be marking Red Nose Day by holding a non-uniform day. Children can dress in Red or dress as a Superhero for the day and make a minimum £1 donation either on Parent Pay or in cash on the day.

Think outside the box about dressing as a superhero – there were some wonderful costumes last year as children dressed as scientists, doctors, firemen and nurses.



## **Parent Showcases – March 2024**

Our popular Parent Showcases, will take place again this term. The showcase is an opportunity for parents to come into school to view their children's school books, see art work, presentations and have discussions with staff and children about the learning that the children have been engaged with this term.

These Key Stage Showcases will take place in the hall from 2.30pm.

The children will choose their favourite or piece of work that they are proudest of to be on display in the hall and will show that to their parents along with explaining how the particular piece of learning fits in to the programme of learning that they have been engaged in this term. (slightly different for Reception)

KS1 Parent Showcase – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March from 2.30pm

Reception Showcase – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March from 2.30pm

LKS2 Parent Showcase – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 2.30pm

UKS2 Parent Showcase – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 2.30pm

Children and siblings may go home with their parents after they have visited the Showcase



## **Attendance – 92% National Threshold**

Due to very high levels of sickness and illness since the start of the school year across all year groups, the levels of attendance for many children have fallen below the national expectation of 92%.

Thank you to all parents who ensure that they contact the school on the first day that their child is absent and on subsequent days. This ensures that we are fully informed of the reason why a child is absent and can update our records accordingly.

As a school we constantly monitor levels of attendance and in accordance with The Bedford Borough Attendance Toolkit we formally review levels of attendance each month. When a child's attendance falls below the national expectation of 92% we will write to parents to inform them that their child's attendance has fallen below the national expectation of 92%. We will write to all parents where their child's attendance has fallen below 92% regardless of the reason for the fall in attendance.

Learning moves on so quickly in school and if your child is absent for a considerable amount of days their learning and progress will suffer.

If your child is absent for ½ a day every week, their attendance will only be 90% - equivalent to 4 weeks of school and learning missed over the year.

If 90% attendance continues over 5 years that is equivalent to half a year of school and learning missed.

All children should be at school every day unless they are too ill to attend. If you are not sure, please send them in to school and we will send them home if they are unwell. If they seem a little unwell in the morning and make a recovery during the day – please bring them in. Establishing good attendance habits is important early in a child's school career, as this is a trait that will serve them well throughout life.

*Attendance Matters!*



*Every Student, Every School, Every Day*

[www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk](http://www.edithcavellprimary.co.uk)

### **Fun reading on a Friday**



We would like to remind you that we are continuing with our fun reading with your child on Friday mornings 8.45am – 9am. For those of you who are new to our school, all parents and grandparents are invited in to school on a Friday from 8.45-9am to listen to your child read. Just go along to your child's classroom.

### **Advance Warning**

#### **Early finish on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

We would like to give parents the opportunity to collect their children early on the afternoon of the last day of term, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Children may be collected at **1.45pm**.

Any child may stay in school until the normal end of the school day if parents are working or they do not wish to collect them early.

**Please note: Year 5 and Year 6 children will not be allowed to leave early without the school receiving a completed form from parents.** Forms have been emailed to parents.

Parents may collect their child/ren at the early finish time from their normal class. Any children not collected at the early finish time, will be cared for in their phase groups until the normal end of day.

### **GEMS – Afterschool Club**

The after-school club will be available **until 4.30pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024** and bookings should be made in the normal way via Parent Pay.

### **Message from Friends of Edith Cavell –(FoEC)**

FoEC will be running the following events over this half term:

Thursday, 7th March 2024 - **Mother's Day Shop. This will be after school. Venue tbc.**

Thursday, 14th March 2024 - **Disco**

**Reception & KS1 will be 5:30-6:30**

**KS2 lower and upper will be 6:45–7:45.**

**As always, we need volunteers to help us set up, sell sweets and drinks and clear up afterwards. We cannot run these events without your help.**

Saturday, 16th March 2024 - **Science Saturday. We have a fabulous morning of Science experiments. We have a limited number of places and each place is £10.**

**We look forward to seeing you at one of the events and please if you can volunteer let the school office know.**

## Attendance

Each week in school we award the 'Attendance Bear' to the class that has had the best attendance in the school. The children enjoy having Attendance Bear in their classroom for the week and eagerly await the results each week. Please help your child's class earn the privilege of looking after Attendance Bear for the week by ensuring that your child attends school every day. The winners of Attendance Bear so far in January and February have been:



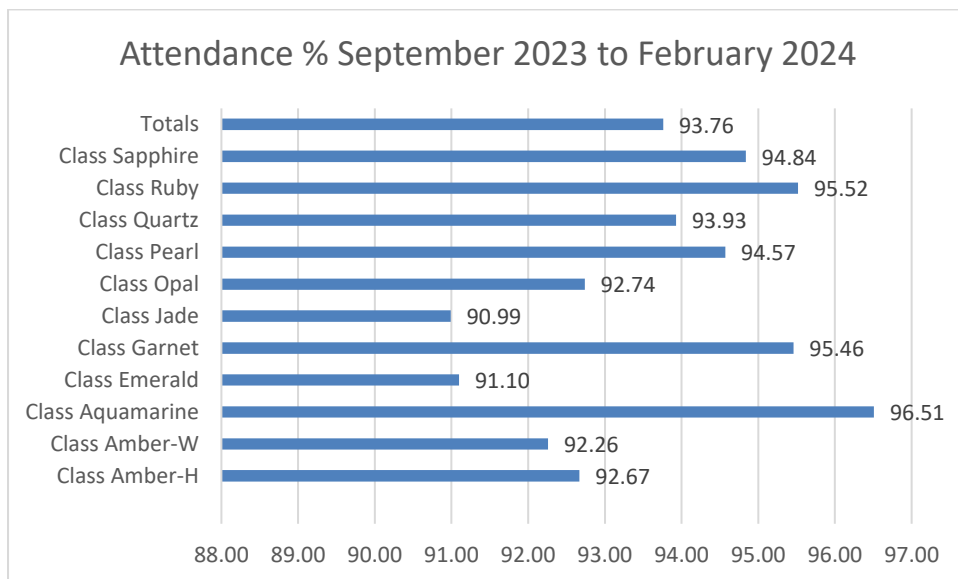
15<sup>th</sup> Jan. – 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. - Garnet

22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. - Ruby

29<sup>th</sup> Jan. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. - Aquamarine

5<sup>th</sup> Feb. – 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. - Aquamarine

## Attendance



**Stars of the Week**  
**Jan. 2024/Feb. 2024**

**Amber-H**

Hollie  
Caleb  
Ali  
Haoran

**Amber-W**

Emily  
Summer  
Chisimdi

**Pearl**

Whole Class  
Czarek  
Amber

**Emerald**

Whole Class  
Matei  
Ranveer

**Jade**

Sukhmanpreet  
Whole Class

**Opal**

Whole Class  
Aqsa  
Junaid

**Ruby**

Paul  
Aaryan  
Whole Class  
Ella

**Garnet**

Junior  
Rex  
Roman  
Stefan

**Quartz**

Paul  
Millie  
Shavar

**Aquamarine**

Oscar  
Franek  
Carys  
Nimi

**Sapphire**

Elspeth  
Mateo  
Joshua  
Nimrat

## **Dates – Spring 2024**

Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Children finish for Half term Holiday
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	1 <sup>st</sup> day back for children
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	LKS2 Faith tour FoEC Lego club
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> March	FoEC Lego club
Thur 7 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	8am - Mother's Day Breakfast
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	The Big Legal Week 2pm - KS1 & Rec Parent consultations including SEN co-production meetings
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup>	2pm - KS2 Parent consultations including SEN co-production meetings
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 visit to Higgins Museum 3.45pm - Parent consultations including SEN co-production meetings FoEC Lego club
Thur 14 <sup>th</sup>	FoEC -Discos
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	FoEC Science Saturday
Tue 19 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm - KS1 – Parent Showcase
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	FoEC Lego club
Thur 21 <sup>st</sup>	8am – Governors Meeting 2.30pm - Reception – Parent Showcase
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm – LKS2 – Parent Showcase
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm – UKS2 – Parent Showcase
Thur 28 <sup>th</sup>	End of term – early finish

### **Academic Year 2023 – 2024**

#### **Spring Term 2024**

Half term – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Children return – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Term ends - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

#### **Summer Term 2024**

Training Day – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Children return – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
May Day – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Half term – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Children return – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024  
Term ends – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024



# Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

BUY MILK

## GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

## TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

## GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

## LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

## AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

## HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

## BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

## 'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

## SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

## TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

## SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

## WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**



Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe - with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends - but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

## EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren'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 (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse - so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

## 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.

## 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 if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other 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.

## VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely - but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature 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 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

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now 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 that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.



### DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.



### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up - and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.



### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life - especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.



### 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 sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're 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.



National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/en-gb/article/2025/8035692-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-does-it-work> | <https://voice.snap.com/en-gb/weekly-learnings-from-the-dad-and-new-safety-enhancements>  
<https://www.nos.com/2023/04/18/snapchat-the-location-sharing-chatlog/> | <https://help.snapchat.com/en-gb/article/2023/4048844>

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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# ▶ YOUTUBE ▶

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

## CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

## SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

## HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

## TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

## SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.



### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



### CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.



### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.



### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it *does* offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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