



# Newsletter

<http://www.oldparkprimary.co.uk>

Newsletter 25: 15th April 2024

## Message from the headteacher

Happy Monday! I hope that everyone had a lovely weekend and enjoyed some of the sunshine that we finally had. I know that the pupils and staff found the return to work last week very tiring so everyone was definitely ready for the weekend when it arrived. I visited lots of classrooms last week and I was really impressed with all of the hard work, learning and positive behaviour that I saw in every classroom. I also delivered an assembly to the pupils last week on our theme of 'resilience' and we spoke about the importance of not giving up and always trying your best. This is especially true with the work that Year 6 are putting in to prepare for their SATs that take place in a few weeks time. All of the pupils in Year 6 along with their teachers and teaching assistants are working incredibly hard to prepare for their exams, and we are all incredibly proud of the mature attitude they are showing to their learning. I know they will all do a great job when the SATS finally arrive. Keep up the great work everyone!

## Value of the half term



## In Harmony Practise Tools

A reminder that pupils wishing to complete practise for their In Harmony lessons can do so by logging in to the practise website, and entering the username and password below:

[In Harmony: Login \(inharmonyonline.org\)](https://www.inharmonyonline.org)

Username: oldpark

password: music

## ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Mr Foster has set each class the challenge of achieving at least 96% attendance for the week of 15th April. The school average for this year is 95%, so we want to try and push ourself to get above this and achieve 96%.

All of the classes that meet the 96% target will get a reward on Friday 19th April. Good luck to everyone!

## Is my child too ill for school?

Remember you can check the NHS website below for guidance on a range of illnesses and how long pupils might need to stay at home for. This is a great tool to use if you cant decide if children should be in school.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

## School meals

All pupils should have received an updated copy of the school meal offer last week. If you child didn't get a copy please let their class teacher know.





# Newsletter

<http://www.oldparkprimary.co.uk>

Newsletter 24: 8th April 2024

## Diary Dates

### Summer 1

Monday 15th April	Year 5 swimming lessons begin (every Monday for 10 weeks)
Monday 6th May	Bank holiday (pupils not in school)
Monday 13th—Thursday 16th May	Year 6 SATS week
Friday 17th May	Year 6 reward trip (Town park and Sky reach)
Tuesday 21st May	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop in school
Thursday 23rd May	Year 5 and 6 boys School Games County Finals
Friday 24th May	Last day of half term
Monday 27th—Friday 31st May	Half term

### Term dates 2023-2024

8th April 2024	Summer term starts
27th - 31st May 2024	Half term
3rd June 2024	Staff PD day
Friday 19th July 2024	Last day of term
Monday 22nd July 2024	Staff PD day





# Newsletter



Telford & Wrekin  
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest  
to create a better borough



Telford and Wrekin  
**FAMILY HUBS**

## SOUTHWATER DROP IN



Every Wednesday 9.30am - 12:30pm  
Southwater Library – children's section

- Advice and signposting
- Information on parenting/ courses
- Support and guidance around accessing local community activities
- Family hubs information



Provided by  
Strengthening Families  
and Dandelion Peer  
Parent support



## 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).

