

12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

*A nurturing family, learning together*



## Message from Mr Hiley

As I am sure parents will be aware, earlier this week a decision was made to reintroduce a number of restrictions at the school, as advised by NYCC's Public Health Team, due to a number of children across classes 2,4 and 5 testing positive for Covid19. As a school we will once again be:

- Minimising contact between classes (including at lunchtimes and breaktimes)
- Suspending whole school activities for the next two weeks.
- Re-introducing face coverings for adults around the school (unless medically exempt)
- Only allowing essential visitors into the school building for the next two weeks.
- Encouraging parents to socially distance and wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting children from the playground. Encouraging parents to wear a face covering when approaching a member of staff. Asking that parents consider not allowing children to mix with children from other classes (excluding siblings) at the beginning and end of the school day.
- Suspending Breakfast Club and After School Club for the next ten days subject to review after this.

As stated in correspondence e-mailed to all parents on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, the current situation at school will be reviewed in a couple of weeks, when it is hoped that we will once again be able to ease restrictions.

This also means that our very popular After School Basketball Club will not be taking place over the next couple of weeks. The CREST Science Club will still be running as this only involves children in Class 5.

Obviously, the reintroduction of safety measures is frustrating and inconvenient, however I hope that parents will appreciate that by acting quickly and sensibly these actions will hopefully prevent the further spread of Covid 19 and help protect the whole community. Thanking everyone for their understanding, and continued support.

By way of a reminder, it has been confirmed by NYCC's Public Health Team, that symptoms of Covid 19 in a large number of younger children are presenting themselves as

cold symptoms, or asymptomatic (no symptoms). If your child is in one of the affected classes at school, you may wish to consider booking a PCR test – as children would meet the NHS criteria as potentially being in close contact with a positive case.

Despite the reintroduction of restrictions, Class 5 were able to accompany me to the Remembrance Service held on School Hill on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021. A Commemorative Wreath was laid on behalf of the school, with all other children at the school also marking Armistice Day with a two-minute silence. Children were also able to purchase Poppy Appeal merchandise over the course of the week, helping to raise funds for The Royal British Legion, the Poppy being a symbol of Remembrance and hope for a positive future and peaceful world. Later in the day a whole school assembly took place.

We are still hoping that we will be able to let children take part in the Countryside Ramble and 'Mile with a Smile' fundraiser organised by Mrs Cadman and scheduled to take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> November. Please help children raise all important funds for Children in Need by sponsoring their miles, or alternatively visiting

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bentham-community-primary-school](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bentham-community-primary-school).

All monies raised will go to Children in Need. Thank you.

This year our Christmas Crafts evening will (hopefully) be returning on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 3.40pm to 5.00pm. Children from Reception through to year 6 inclusive and invited to join in (places are limited). Despite the reintroduction of Covid measures, we are still hopeful that this event will still take place. More information about this seasonal fun evening of crafting has been sent home with children.

As parents will be aware, last week the school photographer was on site. Orders for photographs can now be placed, on line, directly with Tiny Pixels. Children should have come home with an order form containing a unique order reference that can be used to purchase photographs. If this is not the case, then please get in touch with Sally in the School Office.

Our new Spring Term menus have been sent home with children. Completed meal choices should be returned to the school office by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Can I once

12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



again please remind parents in line with School Policy, children cannot swap and change on a daily/weekly basis from school meals to packed lunches. As a school, we do ask that parents/carers commit to ordering school meals on a half-termly basis. Obviously, there are exceptions when a child who usually brings a packed lunch will need to order a meal in an emergency situation, and this can be accommodated. Likewise, if your child would like to try a school meal, or take a meal once per week, then they are welcome to join in with Fun Day Friday which is available EVERY Friday at school.

In January 2022, we will be welcoming new starters into our Nursery provision. If you know of anyone with a Nursery aged child who you think would like to join our Nursery in January 2022 who has not yet been contacted by the school then please tell them to get in touch. Funded nursery places are available to ALL three year olds the term following their 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday.

This week saw The Friends of Bentham School re-open their popular Baby and Toddler Group in the School Hall. It was lovely to see so many local families joining in at this informal friendly group. Please help spread the word that this group is once again up and running. Thank you.

Finally, I am sure most parents will either know about, or have heard about 'Squid Game', 'SnapChat' and 'Tik-Tok'! The question is do any of us know all we need to know!

Whilst these platforms do carry age restrictions, 13-15 plus unfortunately there are a number of primary aged children who are aware of such applications or, in some instances, have accessed/used the same. Hopefully the attached 'What Parents and Carers Need to Know About' information leaflets will provide some useful information and clarity.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr T Hiley

Interim Headteacher

## **Breakfast Club / After School Club Survey**

We are currently looking at ways to make our before and after school club provision more useful and attractive for families and how we can achieve this in a sustainable way. You will have recently received a short survey which will allow us to gather your views and help us plan for the future of these clubs. We would be most grateful if you

could spare a few minutes to complete a survey and return it to us at school by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Children starting Reception in September 2022**

For those parents of children in Nursery and born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 17 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 18 information has been sent home about how to apply for a Primary School Place for September 2022. The deadline to apply for a school place is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Please remember you must apply for a school place, even if your child has an older sibling who already attends the school you would like them to attend, or if they currently attend a Nursery provision attached to the school. More information is available at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions).

## **SPORTS CAMP**

Coach Mark Gunn has confirmed that he will be running a Multi Sports Camp here at Bentham C P School over the Christmas Holidays. The activity day is aimed at children from Reception to Year 6 inclusive and is priced at only £20.00 per child. There will be a number of 'funded' places available, which will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis to children who receive benefits related Free School Meals. If you would like to secure a place for your child at the Sports Camp then please ensure that booking forms are completed and returned as quickly as possible. Thank you to North Yorkshire Together for their support.

## **Return of Baby and Toddler Group**

We are absolutely delighted to confirm that the Friends of Bentham School are once again offering a Baby and Toddler Group session, every Friday, term-time only in the School Hall. The next session will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 from 9.30am until 11.00am. If you have a pre-school aged child, then please do pop along to this friendly informal group – we look forward to seeing you!

## **Covid-19**

There is clear evidence (ZOE Covid Study) that a runny nose and cold like symptoms are now the most common symptoms of Covid infection in unvaccinated children. This is challenging as we move into the usual Autumn cold and flu season therefore, we would strongly recommend that if your child is showing mild cold symptoms including a runny or blocked nose you test regularly with an LFD (Lateral Flow Device) test. By following guidance, we can

12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



help prevent the spread of Covid and protect our friends, families and communities. Advice from the Government continues to state:

**“Do not use a rapid lateral flow test if you have COVID-19 symptoms as listed on the NHS website. [Get a PCR test](#) as soon as possible and [self-isolate](#), while awaiting the result even if symptoms are mild”.**

For more information, please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

By way of a reminder, please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms that could be attributable to Covid without undertaking an appropriate test. Please remember, that in line with advice from the Local Authority, it may be deemed necessary to send a child home, or not accept them in class if they are displaying covid symptoms and have not been tested. As is always the case, thank you to everyone in advance for their co-operation, support and understanding.

**Early Warning : Christmas Menu \* Please note there will be menu changes for the week commencing 6th December 2021.**

All children are invited to join in with Christmas Lunch on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Meals can be ordered during registration.

On the Menu:

Roast Turkey and Christmas Chipolatas  
Roasted Winter Vegetable puff Pastry Sleigh (v)

Santa's Seasonal Stuffing  
Mrs Claus' Creamy Mashed and Roast Potatoes  
A Merry Mix of Sprouts, Carrots and Peas  
The Grinch's Gravy

Hand Decorated Chocolate Orange Christmas Cookies  
Fresh Fruit or Yogurt

Meals are priced at £2.10 each for children in Nursery, FREE of charge for ALL children in Reception, year 1 and 2 and £2.55 for children in years 3,4,5 and 6. Meals are also FREE for all children eligible for Free School Meals. Payment should be made via Parentpay and deposited before Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## PE Days

This term, our PE days are, as follows:

Nursery:	Tuesday/Friday
Class 1 :	Tuesday/Friday
Class 2 :	Tuesday/Wednesday
Class 3 :	Monday/Tuesday
Class 4 :	Monday/Tuesday
Class 5 :	Monday/Tuesday

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

These are difficult times, with financial circumstances changing on an almost daily basis for some families. In some instances, families may be missing out on Free School Meals. Whilst ALL children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are eligible for UNIVERSAL free school meals, families may also be entitled to some additional financial support. Free School Meal eligibility for children in younger year groups includes universal entitlement and additional pupil premium funding which helps support children in school with their learning. If you think you may be eligible for some additional support, then please contact Sally in the School Office. Please be reassured that all applications will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

## Dates for your Diary

### **Monday 15th November 2021**

Fish and Sweet Potato Cake  
Cheese and Onion Quiche  
Jacket Potato

### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Macaroni Cheese  
Quorn Rainbow Pie  
Jacket Potato

**3.30pm-4.20pm After School Basketball Club :**  
**CANCELLED**

### **Wednesday 17th November 2021**

Roast Chicken  
Vegetable Roast  
Jacket Potato

### **Thursday 18th November 2021**

Mexican Tortilla Boats  
Vegetable and Bean Tortilla  
Jacket Potato

**3.30pm-4.30pm After School Cooking Club CANCELLED**

12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together



**3.30pm-4.30pm CREST Science Club (2 of 7)**

**Friday 19th November 2021**

Children in Need Countryside Ramble/Mile with a Smile  
9.30am – 11.00am Baby and Toddler Group in the  
School Hall

**Fun-Day-Friday**

Beefburger in a Bun  
Vegetable Sausage in a Bun  
Jacket Potato

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

Return Swimming Consents by 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (C4)

Return Parental Agreements by 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 (N)

Return Christmas Crafts by 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

(R,1,2,3,4,5,6)

Return Coach Mark Gunn's Multi Sports Camp Booking

Form ASAP (R,1,2,3,4,5,6)

Order Photos : <https://tinypixels.gotphoto.co.uk>

Return Menu Choices by 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (All)

Apply for a child's Reception Place by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022

(N)

Return Breakfast and After School Club Survey : 19<sup>th</sup>

November 2021



# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it's needed. This guide features an array of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**15+**  
Suitable only for 15 years and over.

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed to young audiences by the nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show, Squid Game. The series, rated 15+, is about a world where contestants who are deeply in debt play children's games in order to win cash prizes. The losers, however, are violently killed. The show's popularity has meant it has spread in various guises across online platforms, with a heightened risk of children and young people potentially viewing unsuitable content. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers understand exactly what Squid Game is all about.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some might argue that Squid Game contains content that might not even be suitable for older teens, let alone young children. Characters are brutally tortured and killed through stabbings or getting shot as a result of rules developed and enforced by a masked game master. The show also features sexual content and threats of sexual violence, as well as a strong theme of gambling that runs throughout the whole show.

### APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Whilst the content is very much adult-themed, some features of the show seem to appeal to young children as face-value. The name "Squid Game" may be interpreted as a programme aimed at children rather than adults. The content itself, such as the bright and childish aesthetics, may also appeal to young children, particularly as there's a focus on playground games to go with it.

### SIMILAR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

When using social media and streaming sites, content is recommended based on what the user has consumed i.e. what they have watched or searched for. Therefore, there is a greater chance of your child being exposed to similar violent or horror-themed content on social media after watching a show like Squid Game.

### VIRAL SPIN-OFFS

As well as Netflix, Squid Game has grown in notoriety and prevalence on other platforms, like TikTok and YouTube, with clips of the show going viral. On YouTube Kids, a number of successful channels have taken advantage of the Squid Game trend, creating content such as "How to Draw Squid Game Characters" videos. Its popularity has also led to the creation of app games that put the player in the role of a contestant who is killed if they lose a game.

### SCENE RE-ENACTMENTS

Squid Game's pervasive presence on social media has encouraged many content creators to re-enact scenes from the show, which has led to reports of children wanting to also imitate those scenes displayed on social media at home and in school. Much of this content stems from the "Red Light, Green Light" game from the first episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Netflix has easily accessible built-in parental controls that allow you to set up a profile for your child with a specific age rating, block them from watching certain shows and even lock their account so it can't be accessed by anyone else. Netflix also allows you to access your child's viewing history to make sure they're not watching anything inappropriate for their age.

### MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

Squid Game has become a social media craze and it's possible your child will see some content related to the show on various platforms. Therefore, it's important to be aware of which websites your child has visited on their smartphone, tablet or laptop, and to also keep an eye out for which accounts they are following on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok.

### MONITOR BEHAVIOUR

Due to the viral nature of the show, even if your child has not seen Squid Game, it's important to keep an eye on their behaviour. There have been reports from schools of children "playing Squid Game" in the playground and acting aggressively towards the losers as a way to replicate the consequences of losing in the TV show. Viewing content that makes your child feel distressed or distracted, so it's important you can easily spot the signs.

### CHECK AGE RATINGS

Age ratings on TV shows and films are a way to gauge what is suitable for audiences of different ages. If you are unsure about the content your child is watching, check the age rating to see if the TV show or film is deemed suitable for their age group. If not, try watching the show yourself or talking to other parents, who have seen it before to get a better understanding of why it's been rated a certain way.

### HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Making sure your child is comfortable telling you about what they see online can go a long way to ensuring you are kept in the loop about their online use. Showing an interest in what your child is doing online gives you the opportunity to discuss what is and is not appropriate for their age group, and how they might recognise their own feelings towards content they see.

### WATCH THE SHOW

If you're trying to figure out whether you should let your child watch Squid Game, it might be a good idea to watch the show yourself first. Doing so will allow you to get a better understanding of the show's content and themes, as well as help you decide if this is something you'd feel comfortable with your child being exposed to.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced and highly respected freelance technology journalist, editor and content creator. Previously the editor of techtabloid The INQUIRER, Carly now works as the news writer for Computer Express and ITiya and writes for a number of publications including Forbes, TechRadar, iX, The Media, USwitch and Wired.



# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children. Should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-synching and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

18  
CENSORED

### EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-synching and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&H\*!

### TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become 'TikTok famous'. While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



### HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

### IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

### MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 16s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

### LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

### USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

### MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

### Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of KidsN Clicks, a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



**NOS** National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: TikTok.com

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.11.2021

# FRIDAY NEWS

A nurturing family, learning together

At National Online Safety, we refuse to engage parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold us in financial or legal account about online safety with their children, should they wish it needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe present risks should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalsafety.com for further guides, facts and tips for adults.

## 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, rivaling 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, Spotlight 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 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

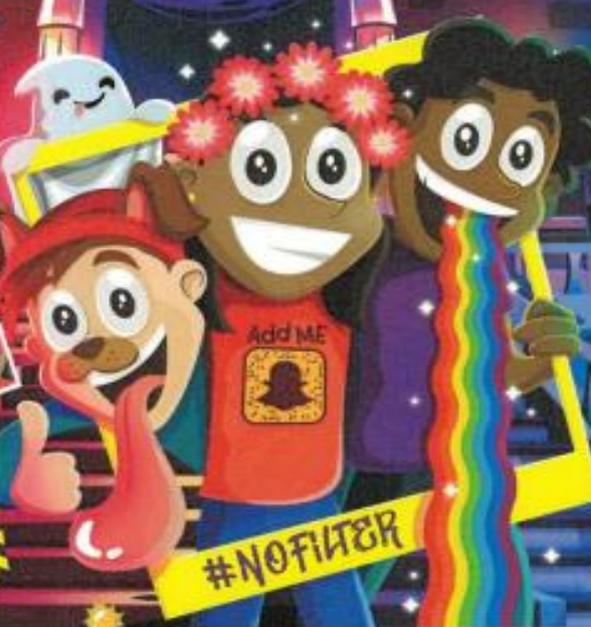
Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images or videos. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first – users have found 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 'selfies'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' 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.



**#NOFILTER**

## 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-judgmentally 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 Snaps 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: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.

### 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 (harassing or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sullivan 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 concerning internet use and online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.





**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalsafety.com @nationalsafety #NationalOnlineSafety @nationalsafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Copyright © of this date of release: 03.9.2021