



Dear Parents and Carers,



It has been another exciting and eventful week at Willow Bank Primary School! We were thrilled to celebrate the success of three of our Year 6 children whose historical narratives have been published in the newly released Young Writers: Ancient Adventures book! Seeing their names and stories in print is an incredible achievement, and we couldn't be prouder. We hope their accomplishment will inspire many of our children to dream big and pursue their passion for writing. Well done to our young authors!

This morning, Hazel Class took to the stage for their sharing assembly. They presented their learning journey this term, exploring answers to their Big Question: *What makes the Polar regions unique?* The assembly was both engaging and informative, showcasing the children's hard work and curiosity. It was wonderful to see them share their science knowledge of reversible and irreversible changes with us also! Thank you to all the parents who joined us to celebrate the achievements of Hazel Class and the wider school community. Your support makes these events extra special.

Reversible Changes



Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome Rock Kidz back to Willow Bank Primary next week! On **Tuesday 3rd December**, children and staff are invited to come dressed as their favourite pop stars to take part in fun and energetic rock workshops. These workshops will incorporate our school values and promises to be an inspiring day for everyone involved.

We are also looking forward to seeing you at our **Parents' Evenings** on **Wednesday, 4th December** and **Thursday, 5th December**. This is a fantastic opportunity to discuss your child's progress and attainment, look through their books, and visit their classrooms. Please ensure you have booked your appointment via the school office or our online system.

SENCO is offering sessions for parents during Wednesday parents evening between 4 - 6pm. If you would like an appointment, please contact the office.



A special thank you to all the parents who join us for our Parent Reading Mornings every Thursday. Your involvement and encouragement at home are invaluable. Reading with your child for just 10-15 minutes each day has a profound impact on their confidence and progress across all subjects.

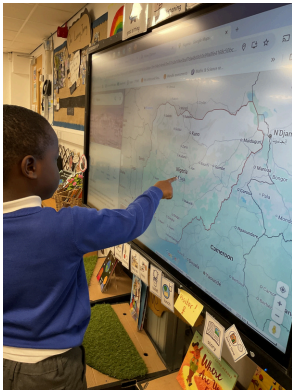
As always, thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
The Willow Bank Primary School Team



Year R

In Reception we read one of our favourite five, 'Where are you from?' And then took turns talking about where we came from. We looked on google maps to find different countries we are from.



Year 1

In Personal Development, we have been continuing to look at relationships, looking more closely at cooperation and teamwork. In this lesson, we read Digi Duck and discussed ways that we can show kindness when we are online.

LO: To understand the importance of *showing kindness online*.

Steps to Success:

- Use *previous knowledge*.
- Work *collaboratively*.
- Discuss the *moral* of the story.

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Be kind

Be generous to others

Share your things

Do not make people feel sad.

Do not make fun of anybody.
Be kind online
Be kind and polite.
Only talk to people we know.
Be positive.
Share good news.

Year 2

In Year 2, students embark on an exciting journey to explore the value of teamwork and the power of kindness. Through engaging activities and collaborative projects, they discover how working together makes challenges easier and achievements more rewarding

Be kind to others.
Teamwork is that you help someone it's really important to help someone because if someone gets hurt, then you have to help them
Always do teamwork.



Teamwork is when you help someone and help the school too.



Year 3

During our PD lessons in year 3, we have been looking at showing our school core value of respect and its importance in our lives. As a class, we identified the need to show respect to everyone we meet. We can show this by being kind, caring and considerate towards other people and offering to help them.

Because that means the person that you respected would treat you the same way you treat them when you are in the playground or at school.

You need to respect so that you can be kind of respectful to others and care for then everywhere you go.



Year 4

Almond Class explored the importance of mutual respect. We discussed how treating others with kindness, having understanding, and appreciation for our differences strengthens relationships and fosters a positive, inclusive environment.



Year 5

This term, our Year 5 children are exploring important themes in their personal development lessons. They are learning about personal boundaries—understanding how to respect their own and others' space, feelings, and limits. Alongside this, they are developing teamwork skills, discovering how to collaborate effectively and support one another. These lessons aim to foster empathy, cooperation, and a strong sense of respect, both for themselves and for others.



Year 6

Year 6 are looking at the concept of giving and asking for permission. We are identifying situations where permission needs to be asked for, giving examples of how to ask for, give, or not give permission, and learning to explain why asking for permission is important in different situations.

What if?

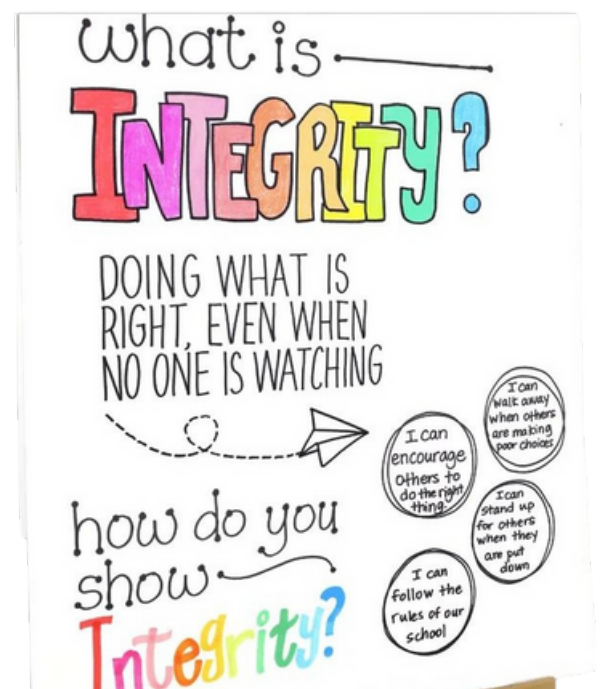
Sally wants to borrow Adam's phone, and asks if she can use it.



What might happen if:

- Adam said no, but Sally took it anyway?
- Adam said 'yes' at first, but then changed his mind and said 'no'?
- Why is it important to ask for permission?

OUR CORE VALUE FOR AUTUMN 2 IS INTEGRITY

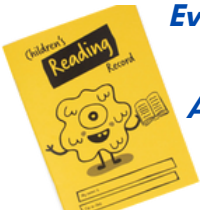




KS1 & EYFS Parent Reading Morning

Every Thursday from 8:40-9:10am

All parents and carers welcome!



We are looking for Read with Me volunteers at Willow Bank! These volunteers will visit our Yr 1 & 2 classrooms and listen to our children read.

If you are interested in volunteering with us for 30 minutes or an hour each week, then please pop into the office to express your interest and pick up our application pack.



Well done	Our target is over 96%
Magnolia - 85%	★ Yew - 97%
Hornbeam - 92%	Redwood - 90%
	★ Almond - 97%
★ Hazel - 99%	Walnut - 95%
★ Larch - 97%	★ Sycamore - 96%

School Reminder

Children should not arrive earlier than 8.20am, for Bagel Breakfast club from 8.25am - 8.35am
 School gates close at precisely 8:50am. After this time, entrance is via the school office and parents will need to sign your child/children in using the screen.

A reminder that we have our Chance To Chat.

As a school we provide ongoing support for the children’s wellbeing and mental health to which one of the methods is they can fill out a form while in school to express their worries. The form then gets placed in the ‘Chance to chat’ box where it will be addressed by the wellbeing team.
 We also have an online form which is located on the school website named ‘Chance to chat’.
 The children can complete the form if they are worried about something or need some advice? A member of staff will get back to the child at school.

Please copy the link below and paste in the search bar and it will direct you straight to the form.
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=MvrWB2Z-r0qnuEuN-giOI1CAPQc0X4RFje43giTliLNUOE5BWUFISE40VjBXODZYRVFITLNXVzZYNCQLQCN0PWcu>




Willow Bank
 Primary School



Wednesday 4th December 2024
 Wednesday 8th January 2025

09:30 - 10:00 am
Please confirm your attendance by
emailing the school office

wbpoffice@watschools.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming
 you on a tour of our school
 and meeting members of the
 Willow Bank team



Dates for Your Diaries!

Here is a quick reminder of the events happening in the coming weeks:

- **Rock Kidz:** Tuesday 3rd December (come dressed as your favourite rock star!)
- **Parents' Evenings:** Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th December
- **Year 6 Bikeability:** Monday 9th - Friday 13th December
- **Christmas Dinner and Festive Clothing Day:** Thursday 12th December
- **EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance to Parents:** Wednesday 18th December at 2:30pm
- **KS2 Christmas Songs:** Thursday 19th December at 3:00pm
- **Class End-of-Term Parties:** Thursday 19th December from 1:30pm
- **Last Day of Autumn Term:** Friday 19th December 3:20pm

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 85% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply 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 setting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger 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.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. 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 setting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

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 setting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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