



# SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

*"Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm."*

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisper, there's an unmistakable excitement in the air – we're creeping ever closer to Christmas! With festive cheer on the horizon, our school is bustling with activities and preparations to make this a truly special one. From nativity concerts and classroom decorations to acts of kindness and community spirit, this is a time to come together and celebrate. Keep a sharp eye on the newsletter for all the upcoming events, achievements, and festive updates!



Please could we remind you that should we receive substantial snowfall and extreme weathers, the school will endeavour to remain open in the first instance and closing the school will only ever be chosen in the final instance. We would like to ask that you do not contact the school office asking if we are open, as we will always use our main methods of communication in the event of such a decision. You will all receive a text message, and the school X (Twitter) account will also be used to state that

this decision has been made. Please ensure that the school office has up-to-date contact details for you. We hope that we are not required to close but such a decision must take into consideration many factors, not just the amount of snow on the school grounds. For example, the safety of parents and families on their journey to school, the staff and their journey to school (many of whom travel some considerable distances through remote areas) and, of course, the weather forecast, and Met Office advice all play a part. I hope that this clarifies our procedures for you and many thanks for your understanding in this matter.

Have an amazing weekend everyone – whatever it is that you are doing, ENJOY! We look forward to seeing you all again on Monday!

## Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes

Year 5 had an absolutely wonderful time at Whitemoor Lakes this week! All the children (and staff) were fully involved in climbing, archery, zip wires, problem solving plus so many other exciting challenges! The food on offer was incredible and the highlight had to be the Christmas dinner on Thursday evening. As always, the

children have represented the school perfectly and the staff at the centre spoke incredibly fondly and highly of our wonderful children. X (Twitter) has captured many memorable moments of this trip! Huge thanks to Miss Martin-Mills, Mr Bishop, Miss Brewin and Mrs Johnston for supporting this trip. Have a restful weekend children, we are very proud of you!



**Be Bright,  
Be Seen.**



## Christmas Performances for Parents

We look forward to welcoming you into school next week for our Christmas performances, which the children are very excited about! These are summarised as follows:

Date	Time	Year Group(s)
Tuesday 3 December 2024	9.15am	Nursery and Reception
Wednesday 4 December 2024	9.15am	Nursery and Reception
Tuesday 10 December 2024	9.15am <b>AND</b> 2:15pm	Year 1 and Year 2
Thursday 12 December 2024	9.15am	Year 3

As teachers and parents, we realise that parents do like to take photographs and videos of their child during performances as a personal memento. However, this can only be allowed if parents follow the guidelines which have been agreed by our school community, and we thank you for your co-operation with this:

- Photographs must not appear on the internet or social media.
- Photographs/videos are used as a personal memento only and cannot be reproduced or shared elsewhere publicly.
- Parents wishing to take videos/photographs are asked to stand in a position which does not detract from the children's performances and does not restrict the view of other audience members.



We look forward to seeing you there!

Whilst there has been no charge for admission to our performances, we will be having a collection at the end of each performance in support of our designated charity for this season, which is the YMCA – a charity close to all of our hearts.



### Reception Application Process

The application process for a reception place for September 2025 will open on 1 November 2024. The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Further information can be found on [Staffordshire County Council Website](#). The closing date is 15 January 2025.

The school office has a letter informing parents about the process, which we are happy to distribute to prospective families. If you would like a copy of this, please contact us.

### Nursery Places Still Available!

Please note that there are still a few places left in our nursery, so enquire if you or someone else you know within the community, would like a place in our outstanding school. Further information can be found on our school website [Admissions](#) page on how to apply for a place and we look forward to receiving your application.

### Shobnall PFA Christmas Market – Friday 6 December 2024, 3.30pm – 5.30pm

This year's Christmas Market on Friday 6 December 2024 will start at 3.30pm and will finish at 5.30pm. A separate letter has been issued outlining the plans and requests in more detail. As a reminder:

- 🌲 The PFA will be running a 'street food' stall at the Christmas Market. If you are able to donate any cakes or Asian food, the PFA would be very grateful if this could be labelled with ingredients to support those with allergies. Also, if possible, please could you indicate if it is suitable for vegetarians or not? They ask that these are donated on the morning of the Market, so that all food products are as fresh

as possible and will ensure that any containers are returned to you the following week via your child. Also, you are more than welcome to bring your own containers along to the event should you wish to have a 'takeaway' option!

- ▲ If you have any unwanted items for the bric-a-brac stall (i.e., toys, books, games etc.) that are in good condition, the PFA are happy to accept these donations in school from now. The PFA are also looking for any second-hand Christmas-themed items, such as decorations, to sell alongside as well.
- ▲ On the day itself, the children (and staff) are allowed to come to school in non-uniform! Christmas jumpers are permitted! The charge for this is for pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1 to bring in a chocolate item (value of at least 50p) and pupils in Key Stage 2 to bring a bottle!
- ▲ Santa has confirmed his attendance! Tickets are available from Monday 2 December to Friday 6 December inclusive in front of the entrance to the key stage 2 playground before and after school, priced at £3.00. Included with the price this year is a selection box and you are more than welcome to take your own photos of your child/ren with Santa. Please note that payment will be cash only for these.
- ▲ If anyone would, or knows of anyone who would, like to hire a table at a charge of £10 for their own stall, please let the school office know and we can pass on details to the PFA.

If anyone is able to or has any links with local businesses who may be able to donate a raffle prize, please let the school office know and we can pass on details to the PFA.



### Christmas Cards

Each year, many of the children like to send Christmas cards to their friends. The post box will be outside the school office from Monday 2 December. So that they can be delivered to the right person, please could children ensure that the name of the recipient and their class is written clearly on the front of the envelope.

### Tree-mendous Tips!

Christmas is slowly creeping in on us, and a lot of us will be starting to decorate the house. Here's some festive, sustainable top tips:

- Choose LED lights or go for solar powered
- Don't buy new decorations every year
- If you do need decorations, look for second hand



- Make your own decorations such as dried orange slices baubles or wine cork Christmas trees - [get inspired here](#)
- [Make a Christmas wreath](#) using the fallout or extra pieces from your tree



### FREE Uniform!

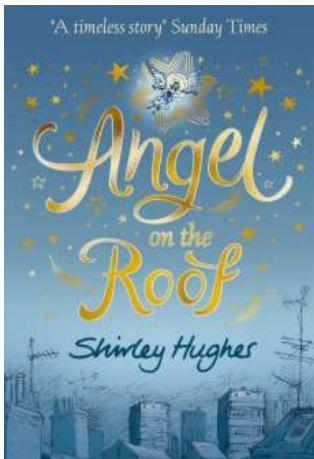
We continue to accept donations of old uniform via the box situated outside the school office for any parents who wish to donate. Please could we ask that these are cleaned and in good condition before placing in the box outside the school office. If you need any uniform, you will need to pop down to the **Family Hub** on Waterloo Street, DE14 2NJ. The Family Hub do not have the capacity to reply to emails but do have uniform on site all year round and are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.00pm.

### Online Safety Tips

Recent user numbers for the messaging app Snapchat currently sit at approximately 800 million and figures from data gathering company Statista indicate that roughly 20% of those users are under 18. That's a lot of young people participating in this sprawling social media platform, many of whom are potentially unaware of the associated risks.

That's why we're releasing this week's guide – also available in podcast format for those who want to listen on the go.

It can be tricky to know how to safeguard younger users on Snapchat but we aim to show you how, while also giving you in-depth knowledge of the online safety risks posed by this platform.



### Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 5+...

#### Angel on the Roof

*Written by Shirley Hughes*

In this heart-warming Christmas story, by celebrated author Shirley Hughes, a young boy called Lewis Brown is looking out of a window and wishing that someone might notice him. Then he spots a single golden feather floating down from the heavens and discovers an angel on the roof. And so begins a great friendship, as the angel takes Lewis under his wing on an adventure that will change everything, and allow Lewis, his family and his friends, to start to see the world around them for the better.

### Attendance

Please read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which has further information if you are unsure whether to send your child to school or not.

We are always happy to advise in line with this guidance, so if you are still in doubt, please contact the school office if your child develops any symptoms and we can discuss this further with you.

**Children can come to school with mild respiratory illnesses.** This includes general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

Please note, we can only accept and administer **prescribed medicines** that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration and dosage.

When reporting an absence, please could we ask that parents contact the school office before 9.30am and state clearly reasons for absence.






Let's keep working together to ensure attendance is as good as it can be! Remember, every pupil, every day! Thank you for your support.

This week's Attendance Champions are **Year 1!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...




Reception	81.0%	Target
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>100%</b>	97%
Year 2	93.3%	
Year 3	96.9%	Overall (to date)
Year 4	96.2%	
Year 5	96.1%	96.1%
Year 6	95.6%	
<b>Overall</b>	<b>93.9%</b>	





### Hot Lunch Options 02.11.24 – 06.11.24

WEEK 1	 MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Pork sausage with creamy mash potato & gravy	Roast beef, with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy	Chicken burger with crispy diced potato	Crispy fish fingers with chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Roasted vegetable pizza	 Vegan sausage & mash potato with gravy	 Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Vegetarian burger with crispy diced potato	 Crispy vegetable fingers with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas & baked beans Salad bar	Peas & carrots Salad bar	Carrots & cauliflower Salad bar	Green beans & sweetcorn Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Apple & cinnamon muffin	Shortbread	 Flapjack	Jam & coconut sponge	Ice cream
Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection



**KEY**

-  1 OF YOUR 5 A DAY
-  MEAT FREE MONDAY
-  CHEF'S CHOICE
-  PLANT-BASED (VEGAN)

**Allergens and Intolerances**  
All of our food is lovingly hand-crafted and prepared on site daily. We have an allergen procedure in place, so please ensure you make our catering team aware of your allergen/ your child's allergen prior to using the restaurant. Our kitchens are used for multi-purpose production so we cannot guarantee the above dishes are completely free from allergenic ingredients or traces of these.

Please note that because of the whole school pantomime trip to Lichfield Garrick Theatre on Thursday 5 December, sandwiches will be the only available option.

## Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Ethan B	Mustafa A
Year 1	Olivia W	Jenson H
Year 2	Aiyla N	Jakub K
Year 3	Kaleb G	Reggie P
Year 4	Zayn S	Harry K
Year 5	EVERYONE!	
Year 6	EVERYONE!	

## Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Joey T
Year 1	Gibriel D
Year 2	Milo C
Year 3	Aleem A
Year 4	Yousuf H
Year 5	Fatiha N-M
Year 6	Asra Z

## Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 29.11.24)	68	40	87	104
Position	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 2 points	4 <sup>th</sup> – 1 point	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 points	1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 points
Running Total	7	10	9	14

# SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

Let's have a sneaky peek as to what has been going on in our classrooms this week...

## Nursery

Our adventures in Nursery this week...

This week we have continued practicing our Christmas performance and it has been lots of fun trying on our costumes. We can sing the songs brilliantly and have a great time adding the actions.

During our Concept Cat work, we have focused on the vocabulary, 'next to.' We practiced this in many ways including using the Concept Cat house by placing the cat next to various objects.

## Reception

Our adventures in Reception this week...

This week we have shared the story, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt,' by Michael Rosen. We enjoyed bringing the story to life by going on our own bear hunt. We also used lots of great vocabulary linked to our maths learning as we crept under the cargo net, walked around the moon, ran through the space station and stood next to the space rocket.

We have also been busy having fun practicing our Christmas performance. It has been great fun singing, dancing and trying on our costumes. We are so excited to share it with our grown-ups next Tuesday and Wednesday.

## Year 1

The children have had a wonderful time in English and are beginning to use the personal pronoun I, finger spaces and have been learning to read and write common exception words. Miss Barker is really impressed with all the children and how they are now beginning to apply their phonetical knowledge of phase 3 and 5 to



spell words. In maths, we have been continuing to add and subtract using a number line as well as solving some addition and subtraction word problems. During our afternoon sessions, we have been continuing with our rehearsals for our Christmas nativity. The children's singing and dancing skills are amazing. In our RE lessons, we have been looking at the gifts Christian's give to Jesus at Christmas, as well as looking at weather symbols in geography. Well done Year 1.

## Year 2

This week in Year 2, we've had an exciting and productive time! We've been practicing hard for our upcoming nativity play, and the children are absolutely loving it. Their enthusiasm and creativity are shining through as they prepare for the performance.

In English, we've been working on our portal stories, and the children are nearly finished with the drafts of their imaginative tales. It's been wonderful to see their ideas come to life on paper!

We've also begun our geography lessons, starting with learning about compasses and labelling them. The children were very engaged, and we're looking forward to diving deeper into our studies.

To wrap up the week, we went on a walk around our local area, where we explored what's around us. We used all our senses to observe and describe the sights, sounds, and even smells of our community—although maybe not as much tasting!

It's been a fantastic week full of learning and fun, and we're excited for the weeks ahead!

## Year 3

This week, Year 3 children have been busy with an array of exciting activities across the curriculum! In English, the children have completed editing their football reports and proudly published their final pieces – well done! In maths, they've been working hard on multiplying and dividing by 2 and 3, showing great determination. History lessons have taken them back in time to the Stone Age, where they explored how people lived, built models of Stone Age houses, and even wrote imaginative diary entries from the perspective of Stone Age people. They also investigated primary and secondary sources to uncover fascinating facts about this period. In science, the focus has been on the human skeleton, with the children learning to name and label its key parts. It's been a week full of creativity, discovery, and learning!



## Year 4



In Year 4 we spent a chilly but enjoyable afternoon in Forest School. We worked in teams to build dens and played different characters in role play scenarios. Some of us constructed an Autumnal art project using natural resources. We enjoyed a lovely hot chocolate and biscuit. In Maths we have been focusing on our 7 times table, investigating number facts and explaining our reasoning in detail. In writing our focus has been on information texts, considering features that make them unique. We have shown some great examples of focus this week in class, and are looking forward to our Christmas fair!

## Year 5

Year 5 have had an amazing time on their residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes this week, as you will have read from the report at the beginning of the newsletter! Check out our X (Twitter) page for many, many posts documenting their time at the centre.

## Year 6



This week in Year 6 we have started to write up our diary recounts from the perspective of an evacuee in WW2. We have enjoyed doing our class assembly on WW2 and we did really well. In DT we have been thinking of ideas about how to make our own electrical toys. We are so excited to see how they turn out. In maths we have been adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions in all different ways. Year 6 have been enjoying making circuits in science on the computers.



### Diary Dates 2024-2025

Event	Date/Time
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk, Lichfield Garrick	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 10.00am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Year 2 Class Assembly	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025, 9.00am
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>INSET Day</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Young Voices 2025	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
School Closes for Easter	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Reception Class Assembly	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025, 9.00am
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2025, 9.00am
Year 4 Class Assembly	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2025, 9.00am
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025, 9.00am
<b>JTMAT INSET Day</b>	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
School Closes for Summer	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025, 2.00pm
<b>INSET Day</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025

### Autumn Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
EYFS Nativity	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024, 9.15am
EYFS Nativity	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 9.15am
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk, Lichfield Garrick	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 10.00am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
KS1 Nativity	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 9.15am AND

	2.15pm
Year 3 Cosy Christmas Celebration	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 9.15am
JTMAT Christmas Concert	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025

# Learn more about a career in teaching

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
from 1 - 2 pm

Shobnall Primary School,  
DE14 2BB

Visit [jths.eventbrite.co.uk](https://jths.eventbrite.co.uk) to reserve a spot





Funding for Selected Routes

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# Train to Teach

in Local Schools

Primary (3-7) · Primary (5-11) · Secondary (11-16)



The John Taylor SCITT  
[jtscitt.co.uk](http://jtscitt.co.uk)

**YMCA BURTON**

You are warmly invited to a

# **Carol Service**

at

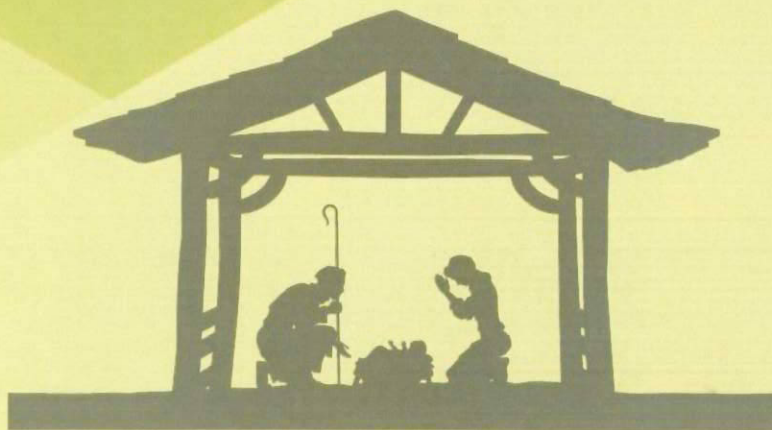
## **Shobnall Community Centre**

199 Shobnall Rd, Burton-on-Trent DE14 2BD

### **Tuesday 10th December at 7pm**

### **Everyone welcome**

Refreshments will be provided after the service.  
This is a FREE event but you are invited to bring food  
donations for the YMCA Burton Foodbank.



YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

SUPPORT & ADVICE

ACCOMMODATION

FAMILY WORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

TRAINING & EDUCATION

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# 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'.

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

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 65% 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 sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

## 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 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

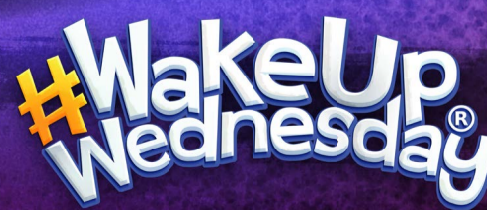
Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

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



The National College