



# St. Philomena's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Miss V Maher

## Newsletter – 20 December 2024

### Autumn Term



### Christmas Carol Concert

This week we held our Advent Carol Concert, which was a lovely evening of prayer, song, and scripture. This is such an important time of year in our faith as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. We are so grateful to those who attended, especially during this busy season. Advent reminds us to pause, make space for God, and reflect on His presence in our lives. As a Catholic school, these moments of collective worship are at the heart of our faith and identity, and we look forward to sharing many more special celebrations together.



### Christmas Cracker Competition

KS1 winner of Christmas cracker competition: Ava in year 1

KS2 winner of Christmas cracker competition: Christian in year 3

### Disney On Ice

Daniel B in Year 1 is our winner of the Disney On Ice tickets, we hope he and his family have a fantastic time. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets.

Our Green Room Club (GRC) After School Childcare Facility

**WILL NOT BE OPEN**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (3.20-5.45pm)**

**and**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 (3.20-5.45pm)**

**and**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February (3.20pm-5.45pm)**

due to staff training.

Please make alternate provision should you require after school care on that day.

**We apologise for any inconvenience caused.**

Breakfast Club will be open as usual.

Green Room Club will be closed for essential whole staff training session. We understand that many parents rely on this service, and we sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this closure may cause.

The training is crucial to ensure that our staff receive the best possible professional development, enabling us to continue providing high-quality care for all children. We truly appreciate your understanding and support.

### Christmas Stamps

Our Christmas stamps sale raised £176.75 for Crisis at Christmas. Thank you.

### Christmas Fair

Thank you to our PTA, parents and the classes that did a stall at our Christmas fair. £2035.02 was raised for our school

### Christmas Jumper Day

We raise £249 for Christmas jumper day and this money will go towards the Save The Children Fund. Thank you

### Christmas Hamper Raffle Winners

Thank you for your amazing support for our Christmas Hamper Raffle. There were 32 prizes and we raised £630.50 - all funds raised will go into School Fund - which is spent on enhancing school life for the pupils in many different ways. Congratulations to the winners who are:

#### Reception

Matvi	Caitlin	Jack
Jenson	Tessa	Nhyira

#### Year 1

Hugo	Janice	Henry
Akshat	Ava	

#### Year 2

Aiden	Tymon	Noah
Alvin	Evangeline	Anashe

Theo A

#### Year 3

Ivy	Belle
Keira	Sandra

#### Year 4

Ioane

#### Year 5

Amiyah-Leigh Taraji

#### Year 6

Jazlyn	Betsy
Nia	Aoife

#### Staff

Mrs Grieves

### Game Zone

Winners from the game zone at the Christmas fair earned tickets for a prize draw, to win lunch and a Christmas movie with the guinea pigs. Congratulations to our lucky winners who enjoyed their special treat this week!

### Staff Panto

We surprised the children this year with our staff Christmas Panto Cinderella – the children seem to really enjoy it!





### **Reception**

Azim Amelie Rayden

### **Year 1**

Mihali Michelle Kairo

### **Year 2**

Mia Lea Theo

### **Year 3**

George Jason Ivy

### **Year 4**

Annabella Ryan Cheruni

### **Year 5**

Amelie Robyn Jesse

### **Year 6**

Gabriella Joshua Aoife

## **Attendance and Lateness for the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 :**

Class	Attendance (%)	Lates (occasions)
Reception	90	4
Year 1	99	0
Year 2	99	0
Year 3	97	3
Year 4	100	1
Year 5	92	0
Year 6	99	0

Well done Year 4 – you are the winners this week with 100% attendance!

Stickers were given out in assembly

### **League Table**

Year	No. of Wins
Reception	
Year 1	5
Year 2	1
Year 3	4
Year 4	2
Year 5	1
Year 6	2



**Weeks in competition: 15 (full weeks only)**

**OVERALL ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK 96.7 %**

Thank you all so very much for continued support over the Autumn Term; as a school community, we have so much to be thankful for. I'd also like to extend my huge appreciation for all of the beautiful cards, gifts and kind wishes you've shared in the run up to Christmas. Your generosity is amazing.

I wish our families, staff and children a very happy and holy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all back at school in January.

Have a wonderful Christmas

Miss Veronica Maher  
Head Teacher





**SNAP STREAK**  
**97**  
**DAYS**

# 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'.

## 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 'SnapMap' – 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 '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 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.



**#WakeUpWednesday**

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2023>

X @wake\_up\_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds



## ACADEMIC YEARS 2025 - 2026

### Autumn Term 2025:

**INSET DAYS:** **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025**  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2025**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025**  
 First day back: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Half-term 20.10.25 – 31.10.25  
 Back to school Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025  
 Last day of term Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## ACADEMIC YEARS 2024 - 2025

### Autumn Term 2024:

#### Spring Term 2025:

First day of term Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
 Half-term 17.02.25 – 21.02.25  
 Last day of term Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

#### Summer Term 2025:

First day of term Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

#### Bank Holiday

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Half-term 26.05.25 – 30.05.2025  
 Last day of term Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

#### INSET DAYS

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**

### Spring Term 2026:

First day of term Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
 Half-term 16.02.26 – 20.02.26  
 Back to school Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Last day of term Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Summer Term 2026:

First day of term Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

#### Bank Holiday

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Half-term 25.05.26 – 29.05.2026  
 Back to school Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026  
 Last day of term Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

#### INSET DAYS

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and  
 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026**