

EYFS

Amber

We have enjoyed taking part in some observational paintings this week - looking at the colours, shapes and lines we could see.



Ruby

We worked in teams to build bridges out of different materials. We had to work hard to make our bridges strong enough for the goats to get over away from the scary troll.



KS1

Opal

In PE we have been practising our throwing and catching skills and learning how to develop our aim.



Jade

In DT, we have been exploring wheels and axels and have made our own using different resources like Lego, Knex, straws and bobbins! We tested them, ready to make our own moving vehicle in the coming weeks.



Pearl

This week in PE, the children in Pearl class have been practising the skill of fielding when playing cricket. This involved lots of throwing, catching and moving around safely.



Lower KS 2

Topaz

This week, Topaz class learnt a new song in Ukelele called Mustang Sally. Ask us to sing you a few bars at home!

Mr Hampson and Miss Kilcourse also wants to congratulate the whole class for their efforts and determination during assessment week. Well done everyone, you should be proud.



Citrine

In Citrine class this week, the children brought their Ancient Greek pottery designs to life, shaping clay using their hands and simple tools. What a fantastic job they have done!



Emerald

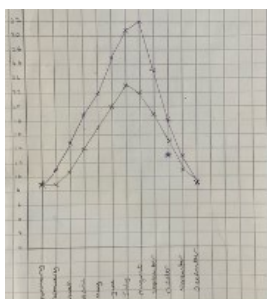
This week in English, we have been reading different instructional texts in preparation for next week, when we will be writing our own set of instructions on how to defeat a gorgon. We have used drama to see how clear we need to make our instructions and what imperative verbs we can use.



Upper KS2

Amethyst

In Science, we have conducted an experiment to identify materials which are soluble and insoluble.



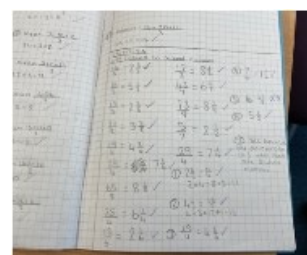
Tanzanite

In geography this week, we continued looking at Spain and we made comparisons between the capital cities of Madrid and London. We used our maths skills to complete a line graph to show this data.



Sapphire

This week, we have been revisiting our learning on fractions. We have been using our calculation skills to convert improper fractions into mixed numbers and mixed numbers into improper fractions. We have then carried out some complex reasoning and problem-solving questions, applying our learning.



Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--|
| Amber | Arfa | For a superb effort in phonics and independent writing this week. |
| Ruby | Ayaat | Confident story telling and describing the troll. |
| Opal | Joshua | For amazing improvements in his reading. |
| Jade | Aaliyah | For remembering what she has learned in phonics and used it in her writing during English. |
| Pearl | Amber-lee | Trying her very best in everything this week. |
| Topaz | Bailey | A great effort in everything he has done this week. |
| Citrine | Ayaan H and Junaid | It was simply too difficult to pick between these boys. They have both achieved very impressive scores in recent assessments. Notably, they have been applying their times table knowledge. Hours and hours of practice is paying off! |
| Emerald | George | For showing great determination in his reading assessment this week. |
| Amethyst | Tia | A big improvement in her score on her reading test. |
| Tanzanite | Urwah | For an amazing effort in her English this week. |
| Sapphire | Fariah | For always doing the right thing and being a super role model. |

Principal's Reading Champions: Frank, Isla, Yakub, Nailah, Areeha, Wade, Urhukpe, Kayson, Laaibah, Gracie, Mikeal

Principal's Award: **Oliver (Jade)** for trying really hard in phonics and using his learning in his English work!

Programme of Coffee Morning

Agenda 2023-24

Coffee mornings will take place every Tuesday morning at 9:00am in the KS2 hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Here is the agenda for this half term..... please come and join us!

19/3/24- POINT

26/3/24- Action Together



Word of the Week ...

values

degree of importance

principles/standards of behaviour

one's judgement of what is important in life

I predict that the word of the week is ... because ...

KS1 bookbags

Please bring your book bag to school every day with your reading record and 2 books inside it. It is really important the children have these 3 items in their book bag every single day.



Smoking/vaping at the gate

Thank you to all those parents/carers who do smoke/vape but do this away from the school gates. Please can all parents/carers who vape/smoke make a

conscious effort to do so away from the school gates to support all children and their families who are arriving at school at the same time. Thank you for your support with this.

Parking outside school

There have been a number of parents parking on yellow lines and the zigzags outside school again in most recent times. Please can you make sure you keep all areas in front of school completely clear to ensure there are no accidents which involve our families.



Mobile phones

A letter has gone out about mobile phones to all Year 5 and 6 parents this week. Please speak to Mr Stuckey or a member of the admin team if you have not received this. If you have a child who is in Year 3 or 4 and needs to bring their mobile phone to school, please speak to a member of staff on the school gate.



Snapchat

Snapchat is an app for sending photos and videos (known as 'Snaps'), and text messages. The 'Stories' feature lets users share photos or videos with all their contacts at once. Snaps disappear after being opened, usually within seconds. Stories disappear after 24 hours. Images and messages aren't automatically saved on phones but can be saved, particularly the group chat function.



The **minimum age** to use Snapchat is **13**, but it's easy to sign up if you're younger. We have noticed that this has been an increase in pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 using this app. Please monitor your child's phone regularly at home and support them to utilise this for age-appropriate content only.

There are a number of problems with Snapchat:

- There's a 'high' risk of seeing sexual content, and of bullying
- Your child's location could be shared automatically with their contacts, which could put them in danger if they have strangers as 'friends' on the app
- There's a risk of children being 'groomed' by strangers into sharing pictures and information about themselves. Gangs also use apps to groom and recruit children

Thank you for your continued support with the online safety content which is taught throughout school every single week.

Trip payments

Year 1 & 2 Lytham St Annes beach visit – Tuesday 23 April 2024

As part of their learning around Great Britain and holidays, all Year 1 & 2 children will be attending the seaside. Cost £11

Year 3 & 4 Museum visit – Wednesday 22nd May (all day)

Linked to their topic on Ancient Egypt, all Year 3 & 4 children will be attending Manchester museum to enhance their learning. Cost £7

EYFS Farm visit – Wednesday 8th May (all day)

Linked to their topic on animals, all Year EYFS children will be attending Cockfields farm to enhance their learning. Cost £10

All trips have been added onto ParentPay and can be paid in instalments. Please advise the office if you have any issues paying.



Pop stall

The Year 6 pop stall will recommence next week. There will be a number of cans and bottles of pop on sale to raise money for the end of year trip for Year 6. Please look out for this near the school gate next week.



Phonics workshops

The next phonics workshop being held by Miss Robinson and Mrs Branwood will be on Tuesday 19th March at 2.45pm. This will be for all reception parents as well as some parents from KS1 that have been chosen by Mrs Branwood. If you would like to attend, everyone is welcome.



Term Time Holidays

We strongly advise against taking holidays in term time as children miss key parts of the curriculum. If you do plan to take a term time holiday, please speak to Mrs Cooper at the school office. This will support us in monitoring attendance and safeguarding children as we will know where children are, and we won't need to keep contacting you.

Holidays In Term Time

Crossing Patrol

We are currently experiencing intermittent levels of school crossing patrol outside Alt Academy. This means, that there will be some sessions where there is not a crossing patrol on site. Whilst staff on duty can support a child crossing the road if they appear to be in danger, this support is not consistently available and is not to be relied upon. Please support your children to be safe on the crossing. If your child walks to and from school alone, please discuss road safety with them.





MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD
IS IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

Attendance

Overall attendance year to date – 93.5%

Weekly winners – Well done to: -

Amber – 95.4%

Tanzanite – 97.1%

Our target is 96%



Be In SCHOOL
Be On TIME

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 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).

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.



NOS National Online Safety®
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Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/202006030902-what-is-my-ai-on-snapchat-and-how-does-it-work> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/202006030902-what-is-my-ai-on-snapchat-and-how-does-it-work> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/202006030902-what-is-my-ai-on-snapchat-and-how-does-it-work> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/202006030902-what-is-my-ai-on-snapchat-and-how-does-it-work>



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