

School uniform:

Now that the weather is getting warmer, children do not need to wear their ties unless they want to. They should still wear the rest of the usual uniform.

Created by God to Love and Learn"

NEWSLETTER 15
2.5.25

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now into Term 5, the first of our two summer terms. Please do look at the diary dates as this is a short and busy term, with SATs for our Year 6 children and sports day at the end.

You can also check out our website (link above) or Instagram feed for updates on our school life: [St Augustine's Catholic School \(@staugustinesprimary\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

We are noticing an increasing number of junior children are talking about Snapchat and WhatsApp on their phones/online or discussing watching things that are 15 or 18 rated. Online bullying is a serious issue amongst children which causes worry and upset amongst families. I have already commissioned the police to speak to Year 5 and 6 pupils so it is highly concerning that this remains a problem. Please see the guides below and check your child's phone use. Alternatively click here for guidance from the NSPCC: [Chat apps | NSPCC](#)

A reminder that this Monday is a Bank Holiday – I hope you have a good weekend and manage to enjoy the extra day off, if you can.

With very best wishes,



Mr Mark Hilliam
Headteacher

SEND – Parents's group and amazing event to come to!

**Stronger Together
SEND Parents Support Group**



When: Once a term at 2:30pm on a Friday.

Where: The After School Club Room which can be accessed via a door in the main school car park.

Who: Parents and Carers of St Augustines School or Pre-School

Hosted by: Deanne Fitzpatrick (School SENCO), Esther Dow (Parent- Link)

Aims of the group:

- To provide a safe, non-judgemental, supportive network for Parent/Carers of SEND children in our school community.
- To support one another sharing advice and strategies.
- To invite visitors in to discuss topics of interest.
- To support school and pre-school in promoting neurodiversity in the community.
- To work together to co-produce SEND initiatives and documents.

All parent/carers are welcome to attend these sessions your child does not need a diagnosis or you may be just interested in finding out more about SEND in our community.

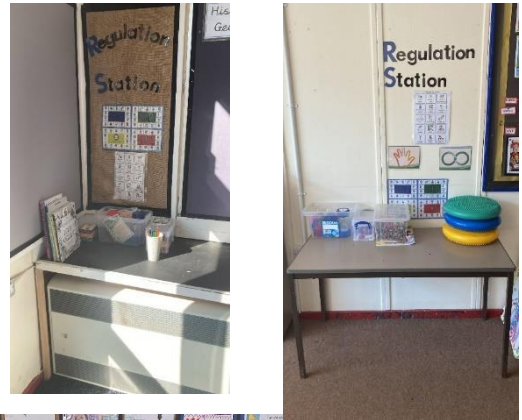
Refreshments will be provided.

Younger siblings will be always welcome and toys will be available to keep them entertained

News from our wonderful PTFA:

Thanks to your donations and their hard work, the PTFA have been able to resource our new 'Regulation Stations'. These are small quiet areas in each classroom and around the school for children to sit calmly and return to the 'green zone' (Zones of Regulation).

Here are photos of the Regulation Stations around school:



Dates for your diary – more dates will be added as they arise:

Wednesday	7 th	May	Elm class liturgy, 2;30pm
Wednesday	7 th	May	Willow Classw Cheddar Gorge trip
Thursday	8 th	May	Football tournament after school (on pitch)
Thursday	8 th	May	Mathstermind 3 (note change of date due to swimming)
Monday	12 th	May	Year 6 SATs week
Friday	16 th	May	Year 2 (Maple Class) cake sale
Monday	19 th	May	Bikeability Week
Wednesday	21 st	May	Sports Day
Thursday	22 nd	May	Reserve sports day
Friday	23 rd	May	Elm Class assembly, 2:30pm
Monday	26 th	May	HALF TERM
Monday	2 nd	June	School returns, Maths themed day 3
Monday	9 th	June	Explorer Dome (funded by PTFA)
Wednesday	11 th	June	Willow Class mass, 2:30pm (note change of date)
Friday	13 th	June	Ash Class assembly, 2:30pm
Saturday	14 th	June	Parish summer event, 11am-3pm on school field
Wednesday	18 th	June	Year 6 Leaver's Mass @ Clifton Cathedral
Thursday	19 th	June	MAD Olympiad, Maple class am / juniors pm
Thursday	19 th	June	New Reception parents evening, 6:30pm
Friday	20 th	June	Hazel Class assembly, 2:30pm
Tuesday	24 th	June	Ash Class Liturgy, 2:30pm
Thursday	26 th	June	Latin play competition
Tuesday	1 st	July	Meet the teacher (New Reception parents)
Thursday	3 rd	July	Meet the teacher (New Reception parents)
Friday	4 th	July	INSET day 5
Tuesday	8 th	July	Spellathon 3
Wednesday	9 th	July	Transition morning, Stay and Play for Reception 2025
Friday	11 th	July	Oak Class leaver's mass, 2:15pm – note change of date
Friday	11 th	July	End of year disco
Monday	14 th	July	Year 6 Grittleton (all week)
Tuesday	22 rd	July	Last day of term

50 Word Competition Term 5



Inspired by music, this time you could write a song or a poem instead of a story. Remember, we are all trying to improve our handwriting in school this term so do present your entry in your neatest handwriting.



UNIQUE VOICE



May
27th - 30th

9am - 3.30pm or
8.30am - 5.25pm
for wraparound care

Regular Session Price
£37.50
+£10 for wraparound care



LAUNCH OFFER
50% OFF
Use Code: MAY50

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLUB

FUN & CREATIVE DRAMA-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR ALL.
RECEPTION - YEAR 6



Wellbeing

Arts & Drama



Mindfulness



Games



Storytelling



Outdoor Play

Our Holiday Clubs are focused on developing your child's creativity and nurturing their wellbeing. We look to boost self-esteem in a warm, welcoming, inclusive environment.

Our highly skilled DBS-checked facilitators will help your child:

- Boost confidence
- Develop self-expression
- Build drama and performance skills
- And most of all...bring LOTS of joy!

Christ Church Junior School
Penderinis Road,
Dorset.

BS16 5JJ

Book Today

uniquevoice.org/holidayclubs



*Launch offer available on bookings made before 04/05/25.

ST AUGUSTINE'S COMMUNITY DAY

ST AUGUSTINE'S

WE'RE COMING TOGETHER TO PAINT, GARDEN
AND MAKE OUR SCHOOL AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LEARN AND GROW.

7TH JUNE 2025

9AM-3PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

NO GARDENING OR PAINTING SKILLS NEEDED!
STAY FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN
EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS - THANK YOU

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR CAREGIVER AT ALL TIMES.





Snapchat is a photo sharing app for mobile phones and tablets. The app allows users to share images, videos and chat with friends through voice call or text message. Users can share images and videos directly to specific friends, or through a 'story' shared with their entire friend list, which documents the previous 24 hours. In a study, Snapchat was ranked the 4th most negative app in terms of having an impact on young people's health and wellbeing, with children feeling that they can use the app Snapchat to "make you look pretty."

Edit date: 29/05/19



What parents need to know about SNAPCHAT



EXPOSING YOUR CHILD'S EXACT LOCATION

The 'Snap Map' lets you share your EXACT location in real-time through a map on the app. The user's location updates when the app has been opened on the device. There is a warning on the Snapchat website about uploading images and videos to 'Our Story' stating that "snaps you submit to 'Our Story' can still show up on the Map, no matter which location setting you choose!" When uploading to 'Our Story', your child's image or video could appear in "Search results and Stories on or off Snapchat - today or in the future."

ADDICTIVE SNAPSTREAKS

'Snap Streaks' are gained when snaps have been sent back and forth consecutively between friends. The longer that snaps are sent between users, the longer the streak becomes. Furthermore, Snapchat rewards users who have achieved high Snap Streaks, by gifting emojis, adding incentives for users to keep the streaks. Children invest time into making their streaks as long as possible, which can put an incredible amount of pressure on both themselves and their friendships.

SEXTING

While Snapchat's gimmick is that all photos, videos and text disappear eventually, users still have the capability to screenshot or record anything which has been sent to them. Users may sometimes forget that screenshots are possible and send a compromising image or message to somebody who they think they trust. Due to 'Snaps' disappearing, (users can even send a one-second photo or video), Snapchat has become the chosen platform for children and young people to send sexually explicit images or 'selfies.' Once a photo/video has been screenshotted, or recorded using another device or software, this can lead to further dangers, such as blackmail and cyberbullying.

It is illegal to make, possess, download, store and share sexual images, photos and videos of a person under the age of 18. This also includes any sexual images, photos and videos that a child may have taken of themselves. However, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed, but taking formal action isn't in the public interest.



EXTRAS TO MAKE YOU STAY

Aside from taking photos and videos, Snapchat has other elements to keep users coming back for more. 'Snap Games' is a feature within the app where users can play minigames with others on their friends list. The games function is easily accessed by tapping on the rocket button during a conversation. Another feature on the app is 'Snap Originals', which allows users to watch content created by Snapchat, celebrities and other accounts, including a mixture of comedy shows, drama, news and more. These features are designed to encourage users to stay on the app, which may be quite addictive.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's selection of filters and lenses are seen as a great way to enhance your 'selfie game'. Although the filters are often created to promote entertainment and humour, using the 'beatify' filters on photos can set unrealistic expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Children may strive for admiration and appreciation by sending these 'edited' photos to their friend list. Judging themselves against other users on the app might threaten their confidence or self-worth.



Top Tips for Parents



THE RISKS OF SEXTING

It can be slightly awkward talking about this topic with your child, but if it helps them protect themselves, it is worth it. Talk to them about the consequences of sexting and make sure that they're aware of the risks. Ensure your child knows that 'Snaps' can be screenshotted. Teach them that if they post anything potentially embarrassing or harmful (either of themselves or someone else) it can have severe consequences as the message, image or video can be shared further.

REPORTING A STORY, LENS, FILTER, SNAP OR MESSAGE

If your child comes across inappropriate Snapchat content sent directly to them or in another person's story, advise them to report it immediately. This may include an inappropriate lens, filter, message or snap. To report an offensive lens, they should open the app and select the lens they want to report. An info button will appear above the lens. Click this, followed by the flag icon. This will send a report to Snapchat for further investigation. Reports can also be made on the Snapchat support website: support.snapchat.com.



USE 'GHOST MODE'

We highly recommend enabling 'Ghost Mode' on the app so that your child's location will no longer be visible to anyone on the 'Snap Map'. To enable this, go onto the Snap Map and tap the cog in the top-right corner. Here, change the setting to 'Ghost Mode.'

HOW TO DELETE A MESSAGE

Advise your child never to send any negative messages (or images through gallery in the chat on the app) as screenshots can still be taken. You should also advise your child to screenshot any negative comments they receive as the sender can also delete them. To delete a message, simply press and hold the sent message and press delete.

TURN OFF 'QUICK ADD'

'Quick Add' helps friends find each other on the app. This is based on mutual friends or if their number is in their phone book. Explain to your child that this feature can open up their profile to strangers. We highly recommend that your child turns off the 'Quick Add' feature. This can be done in the settings.

RESTRICT STORY VIEWS

Your child can add videos and images to their 'Story' throughout the day which will last for 24 hours. By default, anyone in a user's friends list can see their story. We recommend checking the privacy settings to ensure that this has not been edited. This can simply be done in the app's settings under the 'Who Can View My Story' section. The options to choose from are 'My Friends', 'Everyone' or 'Custom' - we suggest that it is set to 'My Friends.'



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



WHATSAPP



WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers



CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

Meet Our Expert

Parven 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 Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

