

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been 'out and about' over the past couple of weeks with Year 3 children visiting Warberry for a LAP Team Building event, some Year 4 children on their residential on Dartmoor and Year 5's up at Spires for a gymnastics competition. It is so important to us that our pupils get lots of different experiences, beyond the school grounds, and we will continue to build on this over the next year.

I had the pleasure and privilege this week of showing our EAC committee around our school. The EAC (Ethos Advisory Committee) are representatives from across our school and organisation who offer support, guidance and challenge to the 4 Head Teachers within our Torquay Hub. They met some of the children who showed them their learning and talked about our Christian Ethos and we looked in different classrooms to see the amazing learning the pupils were doing.

Next Thursday is World Book Day. As per the 'Date for the Diary' below, the children are welcome to dress up as a Book Character (if they would like) but equally they are welcome to wear something which represents 'Loving Reading' or just their favourite casual reading clothes. Please do NOT feel obligated to go out and buy any expensive outfits for this day.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Regards, Ms Alison Helm: Headteacher



Dates for the Diary

Thursday 7th March: World Book Day and Library Launch.

Children can dress up as their favourite characters or something to represent 'I love Reading' or even their favourite reading clothes. **Please do not feel you have to go out and buy expensive costumes.**

- ◆ *Weds 13th March: Class photo day: please send children in with full uniform on.*

- ◆ *Friday 15th March: We Are Ellacombe Scientists— Parents invited in.*

EYFS -> Yr 3 9.00—9.45 and Yrs 4-> 6, 2.00—2.45

- ◆ *W.c 18th March: Last week of After School Club Programme for Spring Term*

- ◆ *Tues 26th March/Weds 27th March: Parents' evenings. Please 'save the date' so that all children can have an adult come in and see their learning.*

- ◆ **Thurs 28th March, 3pm: Finish for Easter**



ELLACOMBE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

The Ellacombe Weekly

1st March 2024



Our After School Club Programme

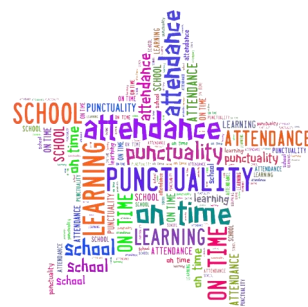
We are delighted that so many children are engaging with our After School Programme. There are so many different options for the children to develop their social, academic, creative and physical skills. These include our choir, chess club, crochet, yoga, parkour and netball. A new option list will be coming out for the Summer term (before the Easter break) and it would be great if 100% of our children would sign up for a club in the Summer term.



Attendance Awards

We are working really hard to make sure all our pupils are in school, every day and on time. Obviously we all get sick, every now and then, but if we are well, we need to be in school!

Well done to **Little Tigers, Little Horses and Hunters** classes for excellent attendance this week.



CLASS ATTENDANCE	HOUSE ATTENDANCE
ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE
Little Bears: 83.41%	Christie House 94.39%
Little Lions: 92.17%	ATTENDANCE
Little Foxes: 91.20%	Darwin House 87.60%
Little Tigers: 98%	ATTENDANCE
Unicorns: 88.46%	Kinglsey House 95.42%
Dolphins: 94.67%	ATTENDANCE
Little Horses: 97.67%	Singer House 95.54%
Eagles: 93.48%	The winners are ...
Swans: 90.40%	Singer House!
Herdsmen: 93.18%	
Heroes: 95.83%	
Hunters: 97.14%	
Warriors: 95.71%	
The winner is ...	
Little Tigers!	



Stars of the Week

Little Stars: Amara for settling well into nursery and being kind to her friends!

Little Bears: Riley F for fantastic work in Phonics!

Little Lions: Arianna for fantastic learning and effort in her phonics this week.

Little Foxes: Leon– for your fantastic effort with your maths learning. You’re always persevering with your work and looking for challenges!

Unicorns: Mason– fantastic attitude to learning and fantastic work this week.

Tigers: Abraham– for his fantastic effort in his English writing this week.

Dolphins: Mya for her fantastic homework this week and trying hard in all her learning.

Little Horses: Benjamin for his fantastic writing and vocabulary this week!

Eagles: Pippa for being incredibly supportive of her friends during the residential.

Swans: Any student who did not attend the Year 4 residential from Eagles & Swans, for being fantastic during our fun filled 3 days.

Heroes: Layton for his lovely attitude towards his learning and showing school values.

Herdsmen: Tristan– for always being a great role model!

Hunters: Evie for always being willing to share her answers in class and for challenging herself in her maths learning.

Warriors: Jack We for trying really hard in all of his learning and improved presentation!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SN PCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 easier for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

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.

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 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat 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 that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

DISCUSS AND

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 honestly about sexting. Warning 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 follows, 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 content, 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.



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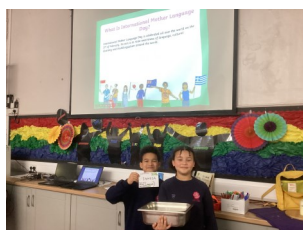
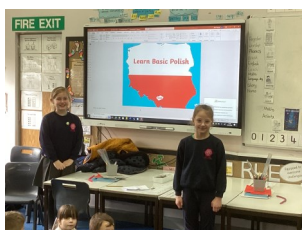
@national_online_safety

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International Language Afternoon

We had a fantastic afternoon last week with our International Languages Afternoon. We spent time in our House Teams for the afternoon learning new languages, trying some traditional food and undertaking different activities based on the countries we were learning about. Please ask your children how to say "Hello" and "Goodbye" in the languages they were learning about.



Little Stars Nursery

We have some spaces in our Little Stars Nursery; this is for children from 2 years old. If you would like to have a visit of this wonderful setting or would like to book some hours for your Nursery aged children, please contact the main school reception office.



Bikeability

Message from Michele Radant, National Standard Cycling officer for Torbay Council:

'If your child is in year 2-6 and can't yet ride a bike without stabilisers, please consider signing them up to a 2-hour Learn to Ride Session in the Easter School Holidays at Torbay VeloPark. Sessions available from 8-11 April.

The sessions cost £10 plus booking fee, and a bike and helmet can be provided. There will be a maximum of three children to each instructor.

They need to be able to ride without stabilisers to be able to participate in Bikeability sessions at school, which start in year 3 in some schools.

Use this link to book your child a place. [Learn to Ride Sessions](#)

These sessions fill really quickly, so if you don't manage to get a place, please email me on michele.radant@torbay.gov.uk, to be added to our mailing list for the summer holiday sessions.'

