



Finham Park 2 Weekly Newsletter

Headteacher Update

Date: Friday 11th September 2026



Dates for your diary

17 th September: Open Evening. School closes 12.40.	21 st -23 rd – New Parent tours
24 th September: Parent Meet the Mentor Evening	8 th October: Year 11 Information Evening in EK
12 th -15 th October: Year 10 Army Residential	15 th October: Year 13 UCAS deadline for early entry
23 rd October: INSET day (school closed)	26 th – 30 th October – Half term holiday



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Dear Parent and Carer,

A very special visit to Finham Park 2

We were incredibly proud this week to welcome Sir Martyn Oliver, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, to Finham Park 2, alongside James McNeillie, Ofsted's Regional Director for the West Midlands, and Mary Creagh CBE MP. The visit formed part of a wider Finham Park Multi Academy Trust event, bringing together primary and secondary headteachers from across Coventry to hear directly from Sir Martyn and discuss the new Ofsted inspection framework and the future of education and inspection. It was a real honour



for Finham Park 2 to host such an important event and to welcome such influential figures in education and public life to our school. Sir Martyn was extremely complimentary about the school, and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to showcase our students, staff, facilities and wider school community. Events like this do not happen without a great deal of work behind the scenes. A huge thank you to everyone involved in preparing the school, welcoming our visitors and making the afternoon such a success. It was another really positive moment for Finham Park 2 and something of which our whole community can be proud.

Paying for School Meals – ParentPay

For families who pay for school meals, a reminder that Finham Park 2 uses ParentPay to allow parents and carers to add money to their child's account. This is particularly important for our new Year 7 students, students who have joined us in other year groups and our new Year 12 students. New families will have received a ParentPay activation/PIN code. Once you have set up ParentPay, you will need this information to link your child to your account and add credit for them to purchase food at school. Please make sure that accounts have sufficient credit. We will always respond appropriately where a child has a genuine difficulty, but the school can only provide limited temporary credit and cannot routinely fund meals where an account has not been topped up. If you have not received your details, have misplaced them or are having difficulty setting up your account, please contact us at contact@finhampark2.co.uk and we can provide further support or another copy of the information you need.



IMPORTANT: Free School Meals – Changes for September 2026

There have been important national changes to Free School Meal eligibility from September 2026, and Coventry City Council is currently checking eligibility for pupils across the city. The previous system of transitional protection ended on 31 August 2026. At the same time, eligibility has been expanded so that children in households receiving Universal Credit can now qualify for Free School Meals. Coventry City Council has confirmed that it will be checking eligibility for both pupils who previously received Free School Meals and families applying for the first time.

If you believe your child is entitled to Free School Meals but they are not currently showing as eligible at school, please make an application to Coventry City Council as soon as possible.

Applications are made online and you will need your National Insurance number, details of the relevant benefit and the details of all children for whom you are applying. Coventry City Council will assess the application and notify both the family and the school once eligibility has been confirmed. Importantly, entitlement begins when the claim has been verified and approved, rather than from the date the application was submitted.

[Apply for Free School Meals – Coventry City Council](#)



The infographic is titled 'FREE SCHOOL MEALS' in large, colorful letters. To the left of the title is a large blue fork icon. To the right of the title is the text 'Your child may be able to get FREE school meals'. Below the title, there are several sections: 1. 'Do you receive any of the following?' with a list of eligibility criteria: 'Any amount of Universal Credit', 'Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999', 'Income-related Employment and Support Allowance', and 'The guarantee element of Pension Credit'. 2. 'The benefits of free school meals' with a list of benefits: 'You could save more than £500 a year for each child', 'It saves time making packed lunches', 'Your child gets a healthy, tasty, cooked meal', 'Children achieve more when they've had a cooked lunch', and 'Schools can get extra funding to help children in their education (pupil premium up to £1,550 a year for each child)'. 3. 'Universal Offer' in a yellow circle with a red and white striped pencil icon, stating: 'Also, Universal Infant free school meals are available to ALL children in Reception, year 1 and year 2. You can apply as soon as your child's school place has been confirmed.' 4. 'Everyone's a winner' section stating: 'Too many children in Coventry are living in food poverty, yet hundreds of children are still not receiving their entitlement to a free school meal. One in four children in Coventry are eligible for a free school meal. More are taking up their entitlement but there are so many more who could benefit. Talk to your neighbours, friends and family to spread the word.' 5. 'It's really easy to apply online at' followed by the URL 'www.coventry.gov.uk/benefits-1/free-school-meals/2'. 6. A final note: 'If your child qualifies for free school meals, you may be able to take advantage of free activities during the main school holidays with the Holiday Activities and Food Programme.' At the bottom left are the Coventry City Council logo and the 'ONE COVENTRY' logo.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS Your child may be able to get **FREE** school meals

Do you receive any of the following?

- ▶ Any amount of Universal Credit
- ▶ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ▶ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ▶ The guarantee element of Pension Credit

The benefits of free school meals

- ▶ You could save more than £500 a year for each child
- ▶ It saves time making packed lunches
- ▶ Your child gets a healthy, tasty, cooked meal
- ▶ Children achieve more when they've had a cooked lunch
- ▶ Schools can get extra funding to help children in their education (pupil premium up to £1,550 a year for each child)

Universal Offer

Also, Universal Infant free school meals are available to ALL children in Reception, year 1 and year 2.

You can apply as soon as your child's school place has been confirmed.

Everyone's a winner

Too many children in Coventry are living in food poverty, yet hundreds of children are still not receiving their entitlement to a free school meal. One in four children in Coventry are eligible for a free school meal. More are taking up their entitlement but there are so many more who could benefit.

Talk to your neighbours, friends and family to spread the word.

It's really easy to apply online at www.coventry.gov.uk/benefits-1/free-school-meals/2

If your child qualifies for free school meals, you may be able to take advantage of free activities during the main school holidays with the Holiday Activities and Food Programme.

Coventry City Council **ONE COVENTRY**

During these first few days of term, the school has supported some students while families resolve their eligibility. Unfortunately, we cannot continue indefinitely to fund meals where we have not received confirmation of Free School Meal entitlement from the Local Authority. Therefore, from next week, if your child is not showing as eligible for Free School Meals, please ensure that you have completed the application above or that sufficient funds are available on their ParentPay account. If you think there has been an error, please contact us so that we can help.





Finham Park 2

PRIDE • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY

OPEN EVENING

*Discover what makes Finham Park 2
such a very special place*



PLACES
AVAILABLE
180
PER YEAR
GROUP

**THURSDAY
17TH SEPTEMBER**

**5.00 PM – 7.00 PM**

**Speak to students**
of all ages about
their experience
of the school

**Tour the school**
and see our
fantastic facilities

**Meet our teachers**
and find out about
our curriculum

**Listen to the
Headteacher**

**Talk to our
admissions team**

**Finham Park 2**
Torrington Avenue
Coventry
CV4 9WT
 **finhampark2.co.uk**

 **PARKING IS Hugely Limited – Please walk if possible or car share**













Next Thursday is one of the biggest evenings in our school calendar as we open our doors to prospective students and their families for our Open Evening. Choosing a secondary school is a huge milestone for a young person. It can be exciting, but we also know that moving from primary to secondary school can feel daunting. Open Evening gives our prospective Year 6 families – and Year 5 families beginning to think ahead – the opportunity to experience Finham Park 2 for themselves, meet our staff and students, explore the school and see what makes our community special.

Reminder: this means an early closure – 12.40pm - to allow staff to prepare the school fully for the evening, school will close at 12.40pm, at the end of Lesson 4, on Thursday 17th September. Students who receive Free School Meals will be able to collect food during morning break, between 11.15am and 11.40am.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 17th September | 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Help us showcase our school to prospective students and their families!

TOUR GUIDES

- Welcome visitors
- Show families around the school
- Share your experiences and answer questions

DEPARTMENT HELPERS

- Support teachers in departments
- Help with activities and demonstrations
- Welcome visitors and provide information

WHY VOLUNTEER?

- Develop communication and leadership skills
- Represent your school with pride
- Gain valuable experience
- Help make the evening a success

Interested? Speak to your Mentor or collect a letter from any teacher.

Students are unable to help without permission from parents or carers. Thankyou



One simple job that could save you money!

At the beginning of every school year, we inevitably see an increase in lost property as students get used to new routines. Blazers get left in classrooms. Ties disappear. Pencil cases are misplaced. PE kit gets mixed up in changing rooms. We even end up with socks that nobody claims! So, please could every family do one very simple thing this weekend: **Name absolutely everything.** A permanent marker costs very little and writing your child's name somewhere on the label of every item takes only a few minutes. Please include blazers, trousers and skirts, ties, PE kit, trainers, coats, pencil cases and anything else they regularly bring into school. If something is then mislaid, we have a much better chance of getting it straight back to its owner. School uniform and PE kit are expensive. This tiny bit of organisation can save families a considerable amount of money and hassle – and potentially save students quite a lot of upset too! Thank you for your help.



Food, drink and looking after our school

We are really proud of the food offer at Finham Park 2. Every day, students can choose from a range of great-value, hot, healthy main meals, alongside street food, snacks and drinks catering for different diets, tastes and appetites. It is hugely popular with our young people and represents excellent value for families. However, I do need to share a growing concern. Myself, colleagues across the school, students and leaders from the Trust have all commented on the unacceptable amount of litter being left around the school, particularly in our social and outdoor spaces. There are ample bins in every classroom and throughout the site. There really is no excuse for dropping packaging, bottles and cartons on the floor. This matters. It isn't simply about litter being an eyesore; it is about standards. We expect high standards in our learning, our behaviour, our uniform and the way we treat one another. The same must apply to the environment in which we spend our days. High-performing organisations pay attention to the small things because, collectively, those small things create the culture. Despite challenging and sanctioning students when littering is seen, we are not seeing sufficient improvement. Enough is enough. Therefore, from next week, Radnor Fizz and cartons of juice will no longer be sold in school for the entirety of the week. Bottled water will continue to be available, and we strongly encourage students to bring a reusable water bottle, which can be refilled at the water fountains around school. I appreciate that the vast majority of our students do the right thing, and some will understandably be disappointed by this decision. However, we need to send a clear message across our whole community: we look after our school and we look after the spaces we share. As you can see below, we will continue to provide a fantastic range of good-quality, great-value food. Next week we move to Week 2 of our three-week menu cycle. Thank you to parents and carers for reinforcing this simple message at home: use the bins, respect our environment and take pride in our school.

Finham Park 2

PRIDE
 RESPECT
 RESPONSIBILITY

THE REFECTORY

WEEK 2 MENU

AUTUMN 2026

MAIN MEAL
£2.10

MEAL DEAL
£2.89
MAIN + DESSERT + DRINK

Good Food Brighter Days

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN Sweet & sour chicken with fried rice VEGETARIAN / VEGAN Quorn sweet & sour with fried rice (VG)	MAIN Roast turkey Yorkie wrap with roast potatoes VEGETARIAN / VEGAN Cauliflower cheese Yorkie wrap with roast potatoes (V)	MAIN Beef & lentil Bolognese with spaghetti VEGETARIAN / VEGAN Vegan meatball marinara with spaghetti (VG)	MAIN Chicken rogan josh with wholegrain rice VEGETARIAN / VEGAN Mushroom & potato curry with wholegrain rice (VG)	MAIN Salmon & dill fish cake with chunky chips & peas VEGETARIAN / VEGAN Cheese & onion pastry with chunky chips & peas (V)

DAILY DESSERT SELECTION

Fresh fruit salad • Muffins • Flapjack

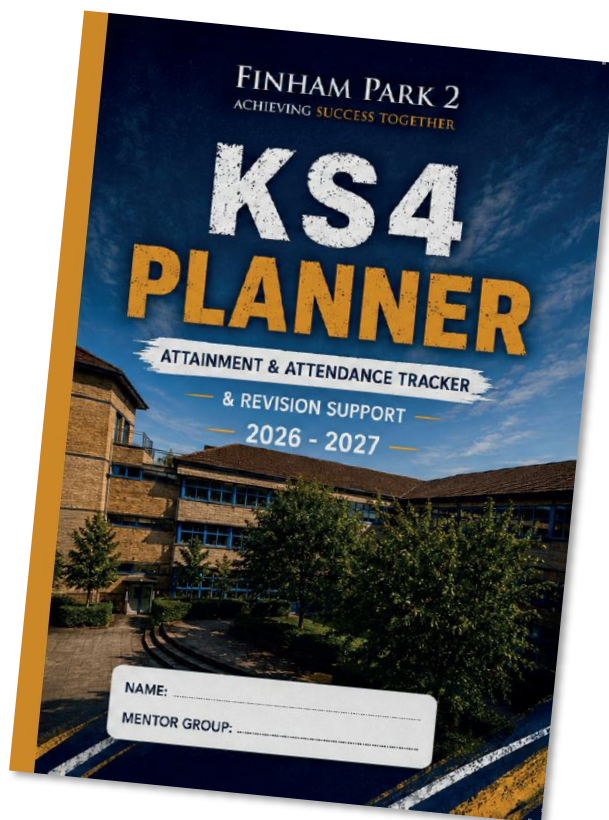
PRIDE • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY

Vegetarian (V) • Vegan (VG)



School Planners – Helping students stay organised and independent

You will hopefully have noticed that students in Key Stages 3 and 4 have a Finham Park 2 school planner this year. We would really encourage parents and carers to take a look through it and talk to your child about how they are using it. The planner is much more than somewhere to write down homework. It contains a wealth of useful information about the school, our expectations and routines, alongside key knowledge identified by our subject leaders, useful facts and revision materials. Students can also use it to record homework, keep track of their timetable, note important dates and organise the different demands of school life. There is a bigger purpose behind this too. As part of our commitment to being a mobile-free school, we want our young people to become less dependent on their phones as an organisational tool and increasingly take responsibility for managing things themselves. Being able to plan your week, remember deadlines, prioritise work and stay on top of competing demands are important life skills. They matter at school, but they will matter just as much at college, university and in the workplace. Our planners have therefore been deliberately designed as a practical resource that students can use every day. Please have a look at your child's planner, ask them to show you how they are using it and encourage them to make it part of their daily routine. A small habit of good organisation now can make a very big difference later.



Stay in touch with your child at school with MCAS

Finham Park 2
PRIDE • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY



**STAY
CONNECTED
MyChildAtSchool**
Live information about your child's school life

**Attendance**

**Achievements**

**Behaviour**

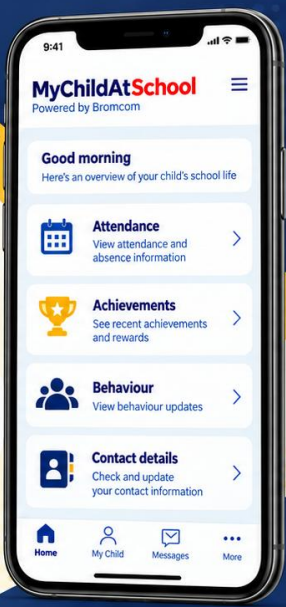
**Contact details**



ACCESS THE LOGIN GUIDE
A link is below, has been emailed home and is available on our website.

**Parent-friendly school**
STANDARD

**Ofsted**
Good Provider
2023



SAFE • JOYFUL • SUCCESSFUL • HAPPY



Next week, all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will receive their Autumn Term Knowledge Organiser. Knowledge Organisers are an important part of learning at Finham Park 2. For every subject, they bring together the essential knowledge that students need to know and remember during the term. They also link directly to homework and provide students with the study and revision techniques they need to learn that knowledge effectively. All of our Knowledge Organisers are also available through the Knowledge Organiser section of the school website, so parents and carers can see exactly what their child is learning and support them at home. We have also included videos demonstrating the different study techniques students can use. There are two important purposes behind this approach. Firstly, we want students to know more and remember more. Secure foundational knowledge gives young people greater confidence in lessons, helps them make connections and ultimately supports stronger performance in assessments. Secondly, we want students to learn how to study effectively. Revising is a skill, and like any skill it needs to be taught and practised. By developing good habits from Year 7 onwards – including retrieval practice, self-quizzing and other effective revision strategies – students build a toolkit that will become increasingly valuable as they progress through school. By the time they reach Key Stage 4 and those all-important GCSE examinations, we don't want effective revision to be something new. We want it to be something they have been practising successfully for years. Please do take a look through your child's Knowledge Organiser when it arrives next week and encourage them to make full use of this fantastic resource.

YEAR 7 FOOD & NUTRITION



FP2 JUNIOR CHEF AWARD

AUTUMN TERM



FOCACCIA



ORZOTTO



CURRY IN A HURRY



CHOW MEIN



MINT CHOCOLATE COOKIES



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

This phase of being in the kitchen develops key practical cooking skills, food science understanding, and a safe kitchen environment through preparing focaccia, orzotto, and a bread party. Focusing on flavour development, heat control, and organised mise en place.

CORE SKILLS & TECHNIQUES

- Measuring and weighing - Seasonal evaluation - Chopping vegetables - Clearing down	- Knife skills (bragat & card) - Stirring dough - Shaping dough - Knitting dough	- Braising - Braising spices - Simmering - Seasoning and taste testing
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COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

- "No one plans just measuring the ingredients etc."
- "Dress well but focus is on what you're doing."
- "Adding more salt than it really should."
- "Flavours don't need salt."
- "You can't taste anything if you're not seasoning."
- "Cooking more is better."
- "Braising is just heating it with more water."
- "Omitting costs is better."
- "Cooking has to be eating."

CORE KNOWLEDGE & FACTS

Research to gain knowledge that goes through preparation, cooking, and serving. Research to gain knowledge on nutrition, and safety. Research to gain knowledge on food science, and food safety. Research to gain knowledge on food science, and food safety. Research to gain knowledge on food science, and food safety.

FOOD SCIENCE

High heat food in a pan and breads and vegetables cook. High heat food in a pan and breads and vegetables cook. High heat food in a pan and breads and vegetables cook. High heat food in a pan and breads and vegetables cook. High heat food in a pan and breads and vegetables cook.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The hot task look and measure the ingredients. The hot task look and measure the ingredients. The hot task look and measure the ingredients. The hot task look and measure the ingredients. The hot task look and measure the ingredients.

KEY WORDS & DEFINITIONS

Mise en place: Preparation of ingredients and equipment before cooking. Mise en place: Preparation of ingredients and equipment before cooking. Mise en place: Preparation of ingredients and equipment before cooking. Mise en place: Preparation of ingredients and equipment before cooking. Mise en place: Preparation of ingredients and equipment before cooking.

FOOD SCIENCE

The effect of water in food in dough. The effect of water in food in dough. The effect of water in food in dough. The effect of water in food in dough. The effect of water in food in dough.

RETRIVAL QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of a recipe? What is the purpose of a recipe? What is the purpose of a recipe? What is the purpose of a recipe? What is the purpose of a recipe?

MEMBER THIS 4 P's

Prep Preparation of ingredients and equipment before cooking.

Plan Planning the menu and the order of the dishes.

Practice Practising the skills and techniques.

Perfection Perfection of the dishes and presentation.



PREPARE
Preparation of ingredients and equipment before cooking.



PLAN
Planning the menu and the order of the dishes.



PRACTISE
Practising the skills and techniques.



PERFECT
Perfection of the dishes and presentation.

GOOD CHEF AND CLEAN KITCHEN

Good chef and clean kitchen. Good chef and clean kitchen. Good chef and clean kitchen. Good chef and clean kitchen. Good chef and clean kitchen.

On Tuesday 15th September, pupils and staff across every school in our Trust will take part in a special event called Drop Everything and Read. At the same time across all our schools, lessons and activities will pause while everyone enjoys reading. The aim is to celebrate reading and encourage children and young people to develop a lifelong love of reading. As part of the National Year of Reading theme "If you're into it, read into it", we want children to discover that reading is one of the best ways to learn more about the subjects, hobbies and interests they enjoy most.



Research consistently shows that reading for pleasure can have a significant impact on educational achievement, vocabulary development, wellbeing and future opportunities. More importantly, it can open doors to imagination, curiosity and enjoyment.

We would love your support.

You might wish to:

- Ask your child what they are interested in and help them find books, magazines, articles or library resources about those topics.
- Share your own favourite book.
- Set aside family reading time.
- Visit your local library.
- Encourage conversations about books and authors.

Together, we can help ensure that every child sees reading as a pleasure rather than simply a school activity. Such as exciting initiative.

Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader Homework Returns Next Week

From next week, Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader homework will recommence for our students. Year 7 students will receive additional guidance about how both systems work and how to log in and complete their homework. Both are a really important part of our approach to learning. That little and often reinforcement of mathematical knowledge and skills makes a real difference over time, while regular reading at home develops vocabulary, comprehension, confidence and a wider understanding of the world. We know that these habits matter not just for success in English and Maths, but right across the curriculum. Students who read regularly and who continually practise and reinforce their mathematical knowledge are better equipped to succeed across their subjects. Please keep an eye out for Sparx homework from next week and encourage your child to complete it regularly and on time. If your child has forgotten their login details for either Sparx package, they should speak to their Maths or English teacher, who will be able to help.

A Final Message to Parents and Carers

My final message this week is not actually about something happening inside Finham Park 2, but I do feel it is worth sharing as a gentle reminder about keeping an eye on where our young people are and who they are spending time with when they are away from school and home. From time to time, we receive information from the police, other agencies and members of our community about young people becoming involved in situations or behaviours that may place them at risk. We will, of course, always contact parents and carers if information relating specifically to their child is shared with us. I also recognise that for many families this message will simply reinforce what you are already doing. As children grow older, giving them increasing independence is an important part of growing up. Trust matters, as does giving young people the opportunity to socialise, make decisions and learn to navigate the world beyond home and school.

However, that growing independence still needs an appropriate level of parental oversight. We are increasingly hearing concerns about some younger people mixing with older teenagers and young adults in the community, and sometimes being influenced towards choices that are not in their best interests. Young people's natural desire to belong and fit in can, unfortunately, make them vulnerable to those who may not have their best interests at heart.

So my simple message is: please know where your child is, who they are with and what they are doing. Keep those conversations going about friendships, influences, relationships, personal safety and making good choices. Where appropriate, technology and location-sharing can also be useful tools alongside those conversations and the trust you have built with your child.

This is not intended to cause alarm, nor does it relate to every young person. It is simply a reminder that the partnership between school and home extends beyond the school gates. Keeping our young people safe is something we all have a part to play in.

As always, if you need support with any aspect of your child's learning and wellbeing, do not hesitate to contact the school and thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend



Will Keddie
Headteacher BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH.



Attendance Update



National Attendance Laws – what you need to know

At Finham Park 2, we know that excellent attendance is one of the biggest factors in academic success, wellbeing, and positive outcomes for young people.

Every lesson counts, and missing school can make it harder for students to keep up with learning, build friendships, and achieve their full potential.

The Government introduced a new **National Framework for Penalty Notices** from August 2024, which applies to all schools in England. Under these arrangements, local authorities may consider issuing a penalty notice where a student has **10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period**. This includes unauthorised holidays taken during term time, lateness to school and instances where a reason for non-attendance has not been shared.

Parents should also be aware that penalty notice fines have increased. A first penalty notice is **£160 per parent, per child**, reduced to **£80 if paid within 21 days**. A second penalty notice within a three-year period is charged at **£160 with no reduction available**. For further offences, legal action may be considered instead of issuing another penalty notice.

We ask all our FP2 families to support strong attendance by:

- Ensuring your child attends school every day unless they are genuinely unwell.
- Arranging medical appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Avoiding holidays during term time.
- Communicating with the school promptly if there are concerns affecting attendance
- Ensuring they arrive on time to school every morning.

By working together, we can ensure every student is **Present and Proud**, making the most of every opportunity to learn, achieve and thrive.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 300 million active monthly users and billions of 'snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These bots may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style images can distort reality, potentially leading to misrepresentation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat rewards user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak is lost for a few days, users will see a 'snap' icon. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but it uses 'missed a day' and 'break the streak' as the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may lower a sense of safety, users may become targets of extortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then threaten to share those images to friends and introduce the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called 'Luxe', giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is only accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make security harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsolicited communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Items content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the post, 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 or videos – so nothing continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for users. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger interacts with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to make why they're reporting that user with a tailored reporting reason under the 'Worthy and Invaluable Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or nudity.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about screens and technology before letting children sign up. If they're used into a room, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, emphasising its harmful risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

As done with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust their settings to their needs, like their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are better than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Edmondson 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 wellbeing behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page or: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@ @wake.up.wednesday

d @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Content as of the date of release 12.05.2025



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discussing events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or slipping single words, then pretending to be WhatsApp, and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

CHANNELS

'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or small reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following data with third parties, raising privacy issues.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for reads, after one view. However, recipients can still view them by screenshotting or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'Forwarded many times' label with a double check. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat Lock' feature lets users lock specific messages in a separate password- or biometrically-protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations, or content they later parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'See Location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, staying in a child's group chat can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information or wish identity. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Set them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one person to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's vital to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'Discoverability', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need it – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with, and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'after-our' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Edmondson 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 online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often won't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might participate in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave their group chats.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children happen in the conversation and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or in the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their actions.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might actually see it. Encourage them to understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Entwistle is an online safety consultant at *8thward*, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



WakeUp Wednesday

The National College



2026-2027 Term dates

School term dates 2026-2027

September 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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28	29	30	31			

January 2027						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027						
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29	30	31				

April 2027						
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May 2027						
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31						

June 2027						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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28	29	30				

July 2027						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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August 2027						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Finham Park 2 INSET Days

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Monday 4th January 2027 – MAT Conference

Monday 19th July 2027

Tuesday 20th July 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

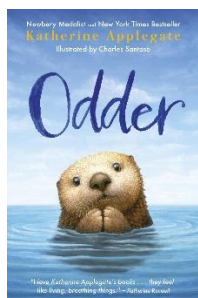
Students last day – Friday 16th July 2027

Term time		Holiday		Bank holiday		Weekend		LA set training day	
									+ 4 set by the school



Book Recommendations for this week

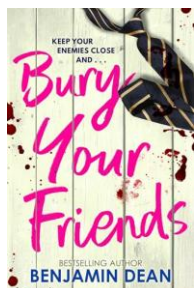
Year 7 + Odder by Katherine Applegate



Nobody has her moves.
She doesn't just swim to the bottom,
she dive-bombs.
She doesn't just somersault,
she triple-doughnuts.
She doesn't just ride the waves,
she makes them.

Odder spends her days off the coast of central California, practicing her underwater acrobatics and spinning the quirky stories for which she's known. She's a fearless daredevil, curious to a fault. But when Odder comes face-to-face with a hungry great white shark, her life takes a dramatic turn, one that will challenge everything she believes about herself—and about the humans who hope to save her.

Year 9+ Bury Your Friends by Benjamin Dean

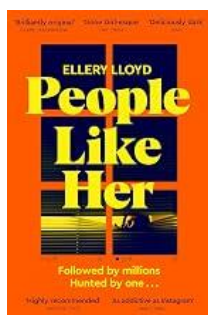


Noah and his best friends are finally graduating from Woodthorn Academy with the world and all its promises laid out before them. To celebrate exam results day, they're hosting a party weekend at Black Stone, an opulent country estate, for the whole school to attend. But for one night only, the ten friends will have a low-key celebration – after all, it's how the upper echelons begin their futures.

But things take a sinister turn when they find themselves in the crosshairs of a killer making one simple every hour, one person must be evicted from the house or someone inside the house will die.

With nowhere to run and a killer on the prowl, choices must be made. But, as people inside the house start to go missing too, it soon becomes clear that nobody is safe. By the time morning comes, who will have survived the night? And is the killer much closer than they realised . . .

Staff, Parents & Sixth Form – People Like Her by Ellory Lloyd



To her adoring fans, Emmy Jackson, aka @the_mamabare, is the honest “Instamum” who always tells it like it is.

To her skeptical husband, a washed-up novelist who knows just how creative Emmy can be with the truth, she is a breadwinning powerhouse chillingly brilliant at monetizing the intimate details of their family life.

To one of Emmy's dangerously obsessive followers, she's the woman that has everything—but deserves none of it.

As Emmy's marriage begins to crack under the strain of her growing success and her moral compass veers wildly off course, the more vulnerable she becomes to a very real



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SUNDAYS
SESSION TIMING
10:15 - 11:15



ALL WELCOME
BOYS & GIRLS
ALL ABILITIES



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NORMAN PLACE
COVENTRY



MINI WHEATS

5-11

YEARS OLD



JUNIOR WHEATS

12-16

YEARS OLD



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MAKE FRIENDS



STAY ACTIVE



LEARN SKILLS



HAVE FUN

SCAN TO FIND
OUT MORE!



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Is your child interested in sport and looking to join a local Rugby team? If so, please contact Roni at Old Coventrians RFC or email Mr Hudson (m.hudson@finhampark2.co.uk) for further information.



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ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

WED • U7-U12 6-7PM • U13+ 6:30-7:30PM
SUNDAYS • HOME GAMES & TRAINING 11AM • MEET 10:30AM

CONTACT RONI 07807 094838

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UNSURPASSED

PLAY FOR THE
CHAMPIONS

PLAY IN THE
PREMIER LEAGUE

THIS COMING SEASON
2026/2027

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MENTALITY**

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TEAM



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COACHING**

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AND SUCCEED



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AND AMBITIOUS



**TOUR EVERY
YEAR**

MEMORIES THAT
LAST A LIFETIME



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OFF THE PITCH!



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AMAZING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR PLAYERS!



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CONTACT

07854 221643

IF INTERESTED OR FOR MORE INFO

