

The Park Schools Federation

Junior, Infant & Nursery

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Monday April 28, 2025

Summer Term Newsletter 2

Dear Mums/Dads/Carers,

Year 3 Residential to Sherwood Forest

We have some very exciting news! Our current Year 2s, who will be in Year 3 in September, will be going on a two day and one night residential trip to Sherwood Forest in October!!! We will be sending out the letter with all the information on tomorrow.

We have a limited number of places, as the youth hostel at Sherwood Forest only accommodates 42 children. These will be allocated in the order we receive the paid deposits. If we get more than 42 children who want to attend, then we will open a reserve list.



This is going to be a truly fantastic experience for our children, they will absolutely love it!

VE Day Celebrations

Next Thursday, May the 8th, is the 80th anniversary of the VE Day Celebrations, when fighting in Europe ended after World War II. We will be having a non-uniform day and hosting a garden party (picnic) celebration to honour and pay tribute to the Second World War generation.



More information on this will be shared in next week's newsletter.

SATs for Year 6

We are fast approaching the Year 6 SATs. If your Year 6 child is nervous about these in any way, please let us know so we can support them accordingly. We have our SATs parent/carer meeting at 5pm this evening.

Also, please remember that having your Year 6 child 'cram' learning at home for the next two weeks is not going to be the most effective use of their time or yours. Laughing together with your children, going for a walk in the sunshine, allowing them time to play outside, trying something they've never done before and spending time with people they love will be much more beneficial.

Children Using Snapchat etc.

We are getting more and more parents/carers asking us to talk to their children and their children's friends regarding the inappropriate use of platforms such as Snapchat, WhatsApp, TikTok etc.

All these platforms have 13+ age restrictions. They have these age restrictions for many reasons. One crucial reason is that children under the age of 13 simply have not developed the emotional maturity to use these kinds of platforms appropriately.

If parents/carers choose to ignore these age restrictions and keep these apps on your child's devices, then you need to be prepared to deal with the potential impact this may have on your children yourselves.

This being said, if there is a serious concern about what has been shared on a messaging platform, then please save the screenshots to show us and we can determine whether it is suitable for us to follow it up.

A parent/carer guide to Snapchat is on the pages below.



After-School Clubs

We have a short first half term and a very busy second half term this summer, so we are only able to schedule four weeks of after-school clubs this term.

This term's letter with our after-school club options will be sent home this week. Please complete this letter and return it to us by Friday May 2. You will be informed if your child has been allocated a place. If your child has not been successful in gaining a place in their preferred club this time, we can place them on a waiting list.

The list of dates for this term's clubs is outlined below:

Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	No clubs before week beginning 19/05/25				
19/05/25	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
26/05/25	Half Term				
02/06/25	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
09/06/25	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16/06/23	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clubs on <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23/06/23	No more after-school clubs for the rest of this term				

Parent/Carer 'Friends' Group

This week, we will be sending out a form on Schoolzine, asking if you would like to be part of our new Friends of Park Schools parent/carers group. This is a group who we hope will support us in organizing and volunteering their time for our school events. We don't expect volunteers to be able to do every event. Whatever you're able to do will be very gratefully received.

September FS2 and Year 3 Admissions – Correction

Last week I sent out details regarding accepting places in our FS2 and Year 3 year groups. There was an error on this information and you do not need to click 'accept' on your child's offer. If you have received confirmation that your child's place has been allocated, then that is all you need to do. I apologise for the confusion.

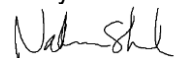
100% Attendance Non-Uniform Day Rewards

And finally, some exciting news! Last term we told the children that we would be introducing a new 100% attendance reward: non-uniform day passes! If your child has had 100% attendance for the whole of a school half-term, they will be awarded with a wristband pass. They can 'cash in' their pass on any day of their choice and come to school in non-uniform that day. They must wear the wristband on the day they wear non-uniform, so we know it has been earned.

Children and families will be responsible for looking after their wristbands. If you or your child loses their wrist band, then we will not be able to replace it, as it would be far too difficult for us to monitor on a whole-school level.

If your child has 100% attendance for one of the two half-terms during the spring term, they will be awarded with a wristband. If your child has 100% attendance for the 1st half of the spring term and 100% attendance for the 2nd half of the spring term, they will be awarded with two wristbands.

Many thanks for your continued help and support,



Nadeem Shah

Executive Headteacher



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97
DAYS

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.11.2024

Summer Term Diary Dates 2025

Monday April 28	Year 6 Sats parent/carer meeting at 5pm
Tuesday April 29	Year 2 Starfish Class Library Visit
Monday May 5	Bank Holiday
Tuesday May 6	Year 4 Bikeability
	Year 2 Dragonflies Class Library Visit
Thursday May 8	VE Day Celebration Picnic *new date
Monday May 12	Year 6 SATs Week
Tuesday May 13	Year 1 Hedgehogs Class Library Visit
Monday May 19	After-school clubs begin
Tuesday May 20	Year 1 Hedgehogs Class Assembly for families at 9am
	Year 1 Lizards Class Library Visit
Wednesday May 21	Year 1 Lizards Class Assembly for families at 9am
Friday May 23	Last day of summer half-term 1
Monday June 2	Children return to school
Tuesday June 3	Year 2 Starfish Class Assembly for families at 9am
	FS2 Giraffes Class Library Visit
Wednesday June 4	Year 2 Dragonflies Class Assembly for families at 9am
	FS2 Flamingos Class Library Visit
Tuesday June 10	FS2 Flamingos Class Assembly for families at 9am
Wednesday June 11	FS2 Giraffes Class Assembly for families at 9am
Tuesday June 17	Year 4 Panthers Class Assembly for families at 9am
	Year 6 Wolves Class Library Visit
Wednesday June 18	Year 4 Koalas Class Assembly for families at 9am
Friday June 20	Last day for after-school clubs
Monday June 23	Whole School Assessment Week
Tuesday June 24	Year 3 Spiders Class trip to the National Stone Centre
	Year 6 Goats Class Library Visit
Wednesday June 25	Year 3 Tanukis Class trip to the National Stone Centre
Monday June 30	Year 5 leave for the residential trip to Scarborough
Tuesday July 1	Year 3 Spiders Class Assembly for families at 9am
Wednesday July 2	Year 6 leave for the residential trip to Scarborough
	Year 3 Tanukis Class Assembly for families at 9am
	Year 5 return from the residential trip to Scarborough
Friday July 4	Year 6 return from the residential trip to Scarborough
Monday July 7	Year 4 Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park
	Year 5 Elephants Class Assembly for families at 9am
Tuesday July 8	Year 5 Owls Class Assembly for families at 9am
Wednesday July 9	EYFS Sports Day at 9am
	Year 5 Transition to Shirebrook Academy
Thursday July 10	Year 1/2 Sports Day at 9.30am
	Year 3/4/5/6 Sports Day at 1.30pm
Monday July 14	Transition to new classes and Year 6 to Shirebrook Academy

Tuesday July 15	Transition to new classes and Year 6 to Shirebrook Academy
Tuesday July 22	End-of-year reports go home
Wednesday July 23	Year 2 Graduation in school at 9.30am
Thursday July 24	Last day of summer half-term 2
	Year 6 Graduation at Sports Direct Auditorium at 10am
	Year 6 Rounders Match versus the staff and parents at 1.15pm
	Year 6 Family Barbecue at 2.30pm

Autumn Term Diary Dates 2025

Thursday September 4	Inset Day
Friday September 5	Inset Day
Monday September 8	Children return to school
Thursday October 2	Year 3 Residential trip to Sherwood Forest (2 days and 1 night)
Friday October 3	Year 3 return from Sherwood Forest
Friday October 24	Last day of autumn half-term 1
Monday November 3	Children return to school
Friday December 5	Inset Day (TBC)
Friday December 19	Last day of autumn half-term 2

Spring Term Diary Dates 2026

Monday January 5, 2026	Inset Day (TBC)
Tuesday January 6, 2026	Children return to school
Friday February 13, 2026	Last day of spring half-term 1
Monday February 13, 2026	Children return to school
Friday March 27, 2026	Last day of autumn half-term 2

Summer Term Diary Dates 2026

Monday April 13, 2026	Children return to school
Thursday May 21, 2026	Last day of summer half-term 1 for the children
Friday May 22, 2026	Inset Day (TBC)
Monday June 1, 2026	Children return to school
	Enrichment Week (children off curriculum all week)
	Year 4 Residential trip to Walesby Forest (3 days and 2 nights)
Tuesday June 2, 2026	Year 5 Residential trip to Scarborough (3 days and 2 nights)
Wednesday June 3, 2026	Year 6 Residential trip to London (3 days and 2 nights)
	Year 4 return from Walesby Forest
Thursday June 4, 2026	Year 5 return from Scarborough
	Year 2 overnight sleepover at school
Friday June 5, 2026	Year 6 return from London
Thursday July 23, 2026	Last day of summer half-term 2