



Kirklevington Primary School

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Head of School: Mrs L Peacock

Happy December!

Wow – I can't really believe it is December already! We have another very busy month in school in the run up to Christmas – a Christingle, Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day, the Reindeer Run, Discos, Parties and Performances.

It's such a magical time of the year!

We had a fabulous WOW day with Liz Million at the end of November which was funded by the fundraising of parents, so thank you very much for your support!

Our school fundraising this half-term is focussed on the Christmas discos (any parental support for these will be gratefully received) and the Coloured Hampers Raffle which will be drawn in school on Thursday 19th December. Fundraising this year, will go towards providing extra-curricular "WOW" activities later in the year. (In addition to school fundraising, we are raising money for Teesside Hospice through the Reindeer Run on 12th December.) Thank you, as always, for your support of our fundraising efforts.

Many thanks!

Mrs Peacock

Head of School

We are a **GOLD Award**
Rights Respecting School.

Article 28: The right to a good quality education.

December

Happy birthday to you all!

Ted (16th)

Ava (19th)

Oscar (25th)

Ruby (28th)

Archie (30th)

Harrison



Whole-School Staffing for 2024/25

Head of School: Mrs Peacock

School Administrator: Mrs Walker
Nursery (Acorn): Mrs Ridley & Miss Rigby

Reception (Willow): Mrs Stainthorp,
Mrs Burns & Miss Cameron

Y1/2 (Birch): Miss Briggs & TBC

Y2/3 (Chestnut): Mrs Harris & Miss Waller

Y4/5 (Elm): Mr Woollett & Mrs Pederson

Y5/6 (Oak): Mr Drake & Mrs Newton

**Please note: From Y1-Y6, we have mixed year group classes.*

We say goodbye to Mrs Sinclair this Friday and wish her a safe journey back to Canada. Our school community will miss her greatly and we wish her well in everything she does in the future!





Safeguarding your children is our priority.

There will be another Safeguarding newsletter sent out by the Trust before Christmas. Please read it carefully and use the resources it signposts you too.

In the meantime, to safeguard your child online, you could download the AirDroid Parental Control App or Qustodio Parental Control App.

See the Snapchat advice for Parents and Careers enclosed within this newsletter.



Attendance

Reminder: If you need to submit a leave of absence during term time, there is a Google Form to complete which can be found at: <https://www.kirklevington.org.uk/parents/letters-and-forms/>

We're currently on 97.2%.
Well done - keep it up!



The **Scholastic Book Fair** is with us tonight, Thursday and Friday this week. If you'd like to visit, please enter through the Oak/KS2 door once the children are out of class. It's open until 3:45pm.
Many thanks!

Coloured Hampers – Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets for the coloured hampers are available in the office.

Tickets are priced at £1 each.

If you are unable to get to the office, you can send the correct money in an envelope with your child. Mrs Walker will put the tickets back in the envelope.

All money raised will be towards school fundraising.

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 function 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



Our whole school had a brilliant WOW day with author and illustrator, Liz Million. We drew dragons, trolls, rainforest animals and mythical creatures. It was wonderful to see so many inspired children. Thank you to Liz!

(Other photos are available on our social media -

<https://www.facebook.com/KirklevingtonPrimarySchool> or <https://x.com/KirklevingtonP> .)



A **HUGE well done** to our Girls' Football Team, who represented Kirklevington brilliantly at our trust tournament today. They showed amazing teamwork and super skills! One of our fantastic team members was also awarded the Sports Values Trophy, only handed out to one player from all of the teams that competed, for an outstanding demonstration of the School Games Values.

Raring2go

A free magazine for families on Teesside:

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/teesside/winter2024/>

Autumn Term 2024: Dates

02/12/24-06/12/24: Scholastic Book Fair – entry through the Oak classroom door each evening after the class has been shown out. (*Commission on sales is allocated for school to spend on new books.*)

02/12/24: Donations will be collected & raffle tickets are on sale for the **Coloured Hampers Raffle** (drawn on Thursday 19th December)

10/12/24: Willow parents Phonics & Craft session 1

11/12/24: Willow, Birch & Chestnut trip to see The Light Princess at The Arc

12/12/24: **Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day**

12/12/24: **Reindeer Run** in aid of Teesside Hospice

12/12/24: Willow parents Phonics & Craft session 2

12/12/24: Elm & Oak Christmas party

13/12/24: Acorn & Willow Christmas party, followed by Birch & Chestnut Christmas party

16/12/24: Elm & Oak visit to The Jorvik Centre

16/12/24: Christmas Performance 9:15am – EY & KS1

17/12/24: Christmas Performance 2:15pm – EY & KS1

18/12/24: Christmas Performance 9:15am – EY & KS1

19/12/24: Children to attend Christmas Church Service (unfortunately, it's just the children and school staff as we can't accommodate parents/carers in the church along with school)

19/12/24: Acorn Christmas Disco during the morning; Willow, Birch & Chestnut Christmas Disco 3:15-4:15pm; & Elm & Oak Christmas Disco 4:30-5:30pm

20/12/24: Whole-School Christmas Singing on the large playground at 2:45pm. (School closes for Christmas at 3:15pm.)

23/12/24-03/1/25 - Christmas Holidays (School closed)

06/01/25: School reopens for staff and children.

Information to follow with more details of events nearer the time.



Signposting for Local Wraparound Childcare

Unfortunately as a small school, we do not have the capacity in school to provide wraparound care. Therefore, we signpost to local childcare providers.

Kirklevington Primary School -

Bookable via our Arbor app:
Breakfast Club open 7:45-8:45am and half-termly after-school clubs 3:15-4:15pm (catering for different interests for Y1-Y6 pupils with limited places)

Puddleducks Childcare, Yarm –
01642 791895 or

<https://www.puddleduckschildcare.com/>

Clever Clogs Childcare, Yarm –
01642 780586 or

<https://www.cleverclogsyarm.co.uk/>

Spring Oscars Layfield, Yarm –
01642 787671 or

<https://springchildcare.co.uk/>



Notices and Events



WE INVITE YOU TO

KIRKLEVINGTON CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2024
10-4PM

STALLS TO PURCHASE UNIQUE GIFTS/BAR/CAROLS
FESTIVE FOOD/FACE PAINTING

Free admission

Kirklevington Village Hall.
Forest Lane, Kirklevington. TS15 9LO

STOCKTON ON TEES LOCAL AUTHORITY TERM DATES 2024-25

	AUGUST 2024	SEPTEMBER 2024	OCTOBER 2024	NOVEMBER 2024	DECEMBER 2024	JANUARY 2025
Monday	5 12 19 26	9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	8 15 22 29
Thursday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Friday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Saturday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Sunday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26

40

35

	FEBRUARY 2025	MARCH 2025	APRIL 2025	MAY 2025	JUNE 2025	JULY 2025
Monday	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Tuesday	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Wednesday	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Thursday	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Friday	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Saturday	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Sunday	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27

35

30

19

36

Bank Holiday	
School Holiday	
PD Days	

40
35
35
30
19
36
195

The number of term dates shown is 195 up to 5 of these dates will be used as Professional Development days for teachers. Pupils will not attend school on these dates and the school will inform parents of the dates.



Congratulations!



Please remember to share with us any achievements your child has done recently outside of school, so we can celebrate them too!

Send any achievements – a photo and a short write up – to kirklevington@kirklevington.org.uk

by 16/12/24, so that these can be included in the next newsletter due to go out to parents and carers on 18/12/24.

Many thanks!