

The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

Philippians 4: 13 22nd September2023

Respect Compassion Resilience



What a week at the Juniors this week! We have had visitors from the Archdiocese in school, inspecting our Catholic life and mission, Religious Education and Collective Worship. Once the report is published, we will share it with all of our families. Thank you to all who contributed to the surveys: parents, staff and children.

This week has had a science focus. Please ask your child what they know—we know they will amaze you!

This week has also seen the first of our school sports tournaments. Y3 and Y4 attended a dodgeball tournament and Y5 and Y6 girls attended a football tournament. As always, the children's sporting behaviour and attitude was exemplary. Well done!

Class Dojo

Thank you to all who have signed up to Class Dojo. If you haven't signed up yet, it isn't too late. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

Pick up and pray

Year 4 parents are invited to a short prayer and liturgy session on Wednesday at 3.00pm. Please come in through the office and join your child's class for this short worship. Thank you to all Year 5 parents who attended this week's prayer and liturgy.

Action short of strike action

Teachers in the NASUWT will be taking action short of strike action, commencing Monday 18 September. For this reason, there will be no after school clubs run by school staff up until at least October half term. Private sports clubs who are offering extra-curricular activities will be running as normal.

Preloved Boutique

Both schools have lots of preloved uniform that need a new home. Please call into either office and help yourselves to any of our uniform that you might need.

Apples

Once again, our apple trees are plentiful. Please help yourself to any either at the front of the school or in the garden itself.

Thanks to all who attended the pop-ins at both the infants and the juniors. We hope to hold our next pop-in in December.



	Star of the Week	Bee Award	
3Ri	Daisy G	Dodge	
3Ro	Sam M	Luca	
4W	Freya	CeeCee	
4M	Shelby	Rosa-Maria	
5D	Penelope	Amelia S	
5HQ	Enrique	Amelia	
6W	Korbyn	Madeleine D	
6R	Hettie	Leo	
6M	Daniel D	Marcel	

Shaken d's	School Values Award	Olivia L
	Millionaire Reader	Tomás
	Rock Hero	



EVENING

Wednesday 27th September 2023 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Leadership Presentations 5:00pm & 6:30pm NO BOOKING REQUIRED

OPEN MORNINGS

Wednesday 18th October 2023 9:15am - 10:00am Wednesday 25th October 2023 9:15am – 10:00am



01744 671930 www.hopeacademy.org.uk

Newton-le-Willows **WA12 0AQ**



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 27 September 2023 4.30pm - 7.30pm

All parents and prospective pupils very welcome

There will be an address by the Headteacher at 4.30pm, 5.30pm and 6.30pm

Please log onto the school website to book your time slot BOOKINGS ONLY: www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk

Rookery Avenue, Ashton-in-Makerfield, WN4 9PF



"Pupils are happy at St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School. They feel safe and well looked after"









Attendance Matters



Attendance Ladder thow close is your child to 100%?

o Days off school	100%	perfection!
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent!
Equates to 5 days off school each year	9 7 %	600d
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned





6 REASONS TO JOIN THE PTFA

FOR THE CHILDREN

BECOME A ROLE MODEL TO SHOW YOUR CHILD YOU VALUE THEIR EDUCATION.

THE EVENTS WE PLAN WILL IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL EXPERIENCE.



BE CONNECTED

THERE IS NO BETTER WAY OF KNOWING WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SCHOOL.

MEET OTHERS THAT SHARE THE SAME COMMON GOALS TO HELP IMPROVE THE SCHOOL.



FOR YOU

VOLUNTEERING IS A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

WE PLAN TO HOST MANY SOCIAL EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY AND ALSO TO ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY.



FOR THE SCHOOL

HELP THE SCHOOL TO RAISE FUNDS.

HAVE A VOICE IN THE PURCHASES THAT ARE MADE TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN.



IT IS FUN!

WE AIM TO ENJOY
OURSELVES IN ALL OUR
ROLES.

FROM PLANNING EVENTS TO RUNNING A STALL IS EXCITING!



KEEP THE PTFA GOING!

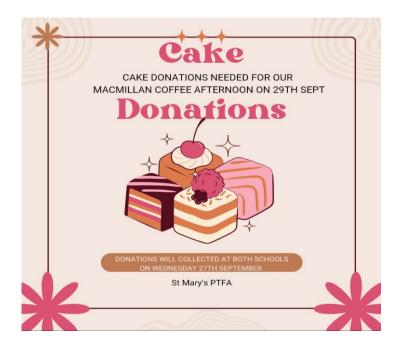
AS PARENTS LEAVE SCHOOL WE NEED TO KEEP THE COMMITTEE GOING.

COME JOIN OUR FRIENDLY TEAM AS MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!



"I work full time and.
"I really enjoy seeing my
help when I am able
"I really enjoy seeing my
that events

"I really enjoy seeing my
the towarding
"I really enjoy seeing my
the towarding
"I would be
grown up help out at events
"I didn't realise how rewarding
"I've made life long friends"
"I've made life long friends"





What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

OF RESTRICTION

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 Al': 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 Al 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 blased, incorrect or misleadding responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to Al 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 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations - creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other 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.

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.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get triend 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.

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

Advice for Parents & Carers

#NOFILTER

Add ME

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.

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 adds, 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.

DISCUSS AI

Although My Al'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 Al's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My Al 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 refuctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends upand who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some chollenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

and which has developed and implemented anti-bullying cademic policies for schools. She has written various cademic papers and carried out research for the Australian overnment comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of oung people in the UK, USA and Australia.

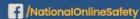


BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

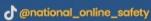
If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state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











Updated Safeguarding Shout out, link for parents and attendance info.

During our SEND and Pastoral coffee morning and afternoon in Juniors and Infants earlier this week parents had asked about current services available in St Helens. This is a link from the St Helens Gateway website: A community hub of information - St Helens Gateway Click on 'Organisations' for all a link to all the current services in the area.

Safeguarding Shout-out!

Who can my child speak to about a concern?

We would like each child in our school to be able to identify a trusted adult they could seek out and talk to as their 'go to person' in school. This adult is usually someone they have a good relationship with and may be an adult based in their class. This could be the class teacher or teaching assistant. Ask your child who they would speak to if they were upset or had a worry?

We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead in school. This is Gill Curley. Mrs Kellett and Mrs Follin are Deputy Safeguarding Leads. Miss McCormack and Mrs Whitfield are also part of our safeguarding team. There will always be one of us available to support you

swith any issues you may have.

Who can I speak to about a concern or a safeguarding



to enable children to trust us and feel that they can share any concerns or

- We have comprehensive and appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place and a PHSE curriculum that teaches the children about safeguarding and personal safety.
- We have vigilant and tenacious staff in school who have your child's best interests and safety at the heart of everything we do.
- A clear and consistent behaviour policy that is applied fairly across school.
- A safe and secure site.

What do the school do to keep my child safe?



Newton-Le-Willows Primary School Attendance Information for Parents/Carers



<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Average</u>	Cause for Concern	Of Great Concern
<u>99%-100%</u>	<u>97%-98%</u>	<u>95%-96%</u>	94%-90%	Below 90%
Well Done! This is amazing keep it up! Your child is in school learning and getting their entitlement to an education.	Your child's attendance is good and they will be accessing school to the levels they need to make progress with their learning.	Let's Get this percentage higher! Your child may well start to fall behind with their learning and ability to build on previous learning.	Your attendance really needs to improve. There will be a significant impact on your child's acquisition of skills and knowledge. Over time this will result in your child underachieving.	Your child will not be working at their full potential, and this will have a significant negative impact on their future in school and beyond.

Why is attendance important?

- It is a legal requirement for your child to be in school on time every day.
- Poor attendance will have a negative effect on your child's learning, outcomes and overall mental health and wellbeing.
- We want our children to make the most of their experiences in school and reach their potential.

- Please notify the school EACH DAY that your child is ill, by ringing the school office on 01744 678390. Please leave a voicemail if no-one is available to answer your
- If you have not contacted the school by 9.30am then the school office staff will telephone you. If we are unable to get in touch then a member of the school pastoral team or the Education Welfare Officer may visit your home

What is an example of an authorised absence?

- Your child is too ill to attend school (proof of illness from your may be requested).
- An unavoidable medical appointment in school time (proof of all appointments will be required)
- A leave of absence agreed by the headteacher

- A family holiday in term time
- Staying off school because a sibling or parent is un-

What is an example of an unauthorised absence?

Taking the day off because it is your birthday, you have a wedding or other day out planned



If your child's attendance falls below 90%, school will send you a letter and monitor their attendance closely. You may also be contacted by school to attend an Attendance Aware ness Meeting to discuss the reasons why your child has been absent. Following this, if your child's attendance does not improve then school may make a referral to the Education Welfare Service.