

MARINE ACADEMY PRIMARY NEWSLETTER November 2023



‘Where stars shine brighter’

...providing an outstanding education that ensures all pupils reach their greatest potential and live by life’s highest values.

Dear Parent/Carers of Marine Academy Primary pupils,

November has been an exciting month at Marine Academy Primary and we are so proud of how well the community pulled together to raise a huge £6267.35 for Children in Need! This is our biggest ever charity donation! November also saw all children take part in a respectful Remembrance Assembly, with each class making their own Remembrance wreath and laying this during the assembly; some children were then also able to attend Lipson Co-operative, who are part of our family of The Ted Wragg Trust schools, for a further assembly. We were incredibly proud that several children then went on to lay wreaths at community services over the Remembrance weekend.

This month also saw a large number of curriculum enrichment activities and opportunities to further develop our children’s cultural capital, including: children taking part in a range of sporting activities and festivals, including our first ever attendance at the Devon Championships Table Tennis and children taking part in a week long Bikeability course; Reception children visiting St Budeaux Library; Year 4 taking part in Geography fieldwork on the topic of Human Migration; Academy Parliament taking part in a ‘Learn with the Lords’ session led by Philip Lord Norton of Louth; Year groups attending cinema trips to complement their curriculum; Year 6 going on a Geography field trip to Slapton Ley, where they took part in beach profiling, analysing rock samples and identifying grid references.

We have also had a number of visitors to the Academy over the last month, as they are seeking support and guidance from our team to help them improve their schools, as well as others who are visiting just because of the great reputation that the school has within the education sector. One visiting CEO of another Multi Academy Trust stated that the teaching he saw across the school was the best he had ever seen! All of the visitors always comment on how polite our children are, how well behaved they are and how happy children and staff are. We are always extremely proud of our children and Team Marine and it is really heartening when others share such positive thoughts too.

Thank you to all the families that were able to attend our Children’s Progress Meetings this month. It is brilliant to have the opportunity to share and celebrate your child’s progress and for you to have the chance to look through their learning books. Here’s to a delightful December full of festive joy and even more wonderful learning!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Georgina Reid and Mrs. Nicola Keeler



Countdown to Christmas!

Below and on the next page are the key events happening in the Academy's countdown to Christmas! As always, if there is anything you are not sure about, please give us a call, email your child's year group email address, or emailprimary@marineacademy.org.uk.

Tuesday 5th December Year 1 Visit St Budeaux Library

Class 1SA will be going in the morning and Class 1CW in the afternoon.

Tuesday 5th December Turtle Class Christmas Crafts

1.30-3.00pm Turtle Class parents/carers are invited to attend Turtle Class with their child to complete some Christmas craft activities and sing some festive songs. If your child does not attend during the afternoon session, then you are still welcome to attend with them to Turtle Class for the craft afternoon. Please come to the Primary's main entrance to sign in.

Please complete this form to confirm your attendance:

<https://forms.office.com/e/GRtX6RNQfc>

Wednesday 6th December Conversation Cafe

The focus this month will be around picky eaters and food habits. Please join us in the MULA between 8:30 and 9:30am.

Wednesday 6th December Pre-School Christmas Carols and Crafts

9.00-10.30am Pre-School parents/carers are invited to attend Pre-School with their child to complete some Christmas craft activities and sing some festive songs. If your child does not attend during the morning session then you are still welcome to attend with them to Pre-School for the craft event. Please come to the Primary's main entrance to sign in.

Please complete this form to confirm your attendance:

<https://forms.office.com/e/En5eyMuNsF>

Friday 8th December Christmas Jumper Day

Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school on this day, with shoes and trousers/skirts etc. of their choice. Families will be welcome to donate towards the Plymouth Soup Run's 'Reverse Advent Calendar' during that week, from Monday 4th December.

Monday 11th December

Carol Concert for Classes 1SA, 2AW, 3CW, 4DS, 5JU and 6DK

Families can arrive from 9am at the MAP Community Sports Hall. The concert will begin at 9.15am and should finish by 10am.

We have worked hard to try to match up as many siblings as possible. However, if there are any families with siblings who may find it difficult to attend both dates, please contact us by emailing primary@marineacademy.org.uk and we will try to make alternative arrangements. Thank you for your understanding.

Tuesday 12th December

Reception's Nativity 'Baarmy Bethlehem' - Class RHR families invited

9.15am start in the Primary Hall.

Wednesday 13th December

Carol Concert for Classes 1CW, 2NH, 3CC, 4LI, 5NG and 6VH

Families can arrive from 9am at the MAP Community Sports Hall. The concert will begin at 9.15am and should finish by 10am.

We have worked hard to try to match up as many siblings as possible. However, if there are any families with siblings who may find it difficult to attend both dates, please contact us by emailing primary@marineacademy.org.uk and we will try to make alternative arrangements. Thank you for your understanding.

Wednesday 13th December

Whole-school Christmas lunch

Children are invited to wear Christmas accessories on this day.

Thursday 14th December

Reception Nativity 'Baarmy Bethlehem' - Class RTG families invited

9.15am start in the Primary Hall.

Friday 15th December

Last day of Term - School closes at 1pm for all children

Children can wear mufti to school for their Class Christmas Parties. The Academy will close at 1:00pm on this day and children can be collected from their normal collection points.



YEAR GROUP NEWS

Children's learning wows their teachers

Turtles

During November, Turtle Class have begun our new topic 'I Can Sing a Rainbow'; it has been a very colourful topic! We have been creating our own rainbows with paint and using collage, and we have been learning the names of all the different colours of the rainbow as well as their Makaton signs.

November was an exciting month which saw us take part in 'World Nursery Rhyme Week'. We had so much fun climbing Jack and Jill's hill, exploring the boats from Row, Row, Row your Boat, finding our Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, finding the buses in couscous and making mice out of playdough; it was a very busy but exciting week and we all enjoyed it.

Turtle Class is now looking forward to our Christmas celebrations, the first of which is our Christmas Craft Afternoon, where we are looking forward to welcoming you to have a fun filled craft afternoon with your children.

Please keep following updates of all the fun things that we do and have planned on the school Facebook page.



Reception

Reception have had a wonderfully festive term taking part in all things 'Festivals of Light'. The children began the month exploring Halloween by using pumpkins in their mud kitchen to create tasty pumpkin and mud pies. The children then created amazing firework pictures using a printing technique as part of their Bonfire Night learning.

Reception thoroughly enjoyed their Diwali learning by taking part in a Diwali dance workshop, and also role-playing Diwali parties in our home corner.

We have been blown away by the children's ability to learn and understand lots of new vocabulary this month.

During Phonics, the children have shown focus and determination to form words, as well as sound talk and blend words. It has been brilliant to begin our Nativity rehearsals, learning songs, actions and rhymes.



Pre-School



The children in Pre-School have had a busy November! They have enjoyed creating their own poppies for our Remembrance Poppy Wreath, which we then laid in a special Remembrance assembly.

The children showed amazing respect whilst taking part in their two minutes silence.

We have loved our new topic 'Who can help us?' where we have enjoyed learning about 'Zog and the Flying Doctors' and our current book 'Little Red Riding Hood'. We were very lucky to receive a visit from some PCSO's who came to talk to us about their role and how they keep us safe. We even had a visit from a carpenter who let us practise our carpentry skills. We have also enjoyed meeting some new friends who will be joining us in January.

We are busy practising our songs for our Christmas Craft Morning which will take place on Wednesday 6th December - we are looking forward to seeing lots of parents! Don't forget your Christmas jumpers!

Year 1

The children in Year 1 had a busy, memorable November! At the beginning of the month the children enjoyed celebrating 'Day of the Dead'. The children looked amazing in their costumes and learnt lots of facts about how the day is celebrated all over the world. The annual 'Children in Need' fundraising day was a great success, with the children raising lots of money towards the cause. The children were excited for the visit of Pudsey Bear to the Academy and enjoyed taking part in lots of activities. Last month, the children have made fantastic progress in their Phonics lessons, learning lots of new sounds in Phase 5. It has been lovely to see the children using these sounds in the books they are reading. As part of their English learning, the children explored the text, 'The Three Little Pigs'. They enjoyed innovating the story and created their own characters and setting. In Maths, the children have been adding and subtracting numbers to ten. The children should be proud of the learning they completed in November. The Year 1 staff are looking forward to celebrating the lead up to Christmas with the children during December.



Year 3

This month, Year 3 have engaged in lots of new topics! They have been busy learning all about Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes in Geography. In Science, the children are studying different forms of rocks and can now identify the three main types (igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary) by classifying them based on their properties.

Earlier in the month, the Year 3 classes were very respectful when they attended the Remembrance Assembly in the hall and were able to retrieve lots of key facts about Remembrance Day, including why we have poppies. The Year 3 Remembrance wreaths looked amazing!

More recently, they took part in the neon disco challenge amazingly and raised lots of money for Children In Need. The children enjoyed the Bikeability week, which taught them how to ride their bikes independently and discussed the importance of staying safe on the roads. Keep up the hard work Year 3!



Year 2

The children in Year 2 have worked hard in Science this term, where they have been exploring the 'Mini Worlds' around them using a magnifying glass to enhance their observational skills. In English, the children have been using the book 'Daisy Doodles' as inspiration for their own creative stories. As well as focusing on their handwriting, the children have been exploring onomatopoeia and how they can include this in their writing. In Maths, the children have learnt to use the formal column method in order to complete addition and subtraction questions. This has been really tricky, but the Year 2 team are super proud of the children's resilience and perseverance throughout this unit.

Our Geography topic this term, 'What a Wonderful World', has unlocked some amazing prior knowledge about the city they live in, Plymouth, and the children have been learning a really catchy song about the continents of the world. We are sure they have delighted you with this at home and it is stuck in your heads as much as it is ours! We can't wait to read their Geography essays at the end of the year!

We have had some incredible Home Learning projects, and we love hearing how you continue to spark their interests in all subjects outside of the classroom.



We cannot wait for you to see some of the fantastic Christmas cards the children will be making in Design Technology and we hope you add their Christmas decorations to your own trees with pride. Thank you for all your continued support as always, from the Year 2 Team.

Year 4

This month, Year 4 have made super progress with their learning! In English, they have completed their 'A Walk in London' text, writing their own innovated texts about 'A Walk in Plymouth'. In their writing, they included facts about different landmarks in Plymouth and a conversation between two people.

In Maths, the children have completed their Addition and Subtraction unit, and have mastered column addition and subtraction!

In Geography, we have been continuing to learn about 'Human Migration'. They discussed why migration is important and its advantages and disadvantages. The children then learnt about how push and pull factors cause migration, what economic migration is and what the terms refugee and asylum mean. As part of their learning, they travelled to the city centre to interview members of the public about where they had originated from and analysed the data they collected once back at school.

In Science, the children have been learning about Ecosystems including the different types of organism, how animals are classified by diet and what producers and consumers are.

Another highlight in Year 4 this month was our cinema trip to watch 'Epic Tales' in Ivybridge, which linked to their Year 3 Ancient Greece History topic. Well done to all of Year 4 for another successful month of learning!



Year 5

Year 5 have continued to make super progress this term and have been producing learning of a high standard across all subjects. In Maths, the children have completed their Statistics unit and have now moved onto Multiplication and Division, including factors and multiples. In English, the children have learnt about the text 'Straw into Gold', where they have practised their emotive writing, complex sentence structures and descriptive language, before writing their own innovated fairy tale. In Geography, they have started investigating 'Informal Settlements' and considered what they are, where they are located and why they exist.

The children have been able to advance with their Physical and Chemical Changes Science unit this term, by utilising their knowledge from and making links to the Changing States unit they studied last term! In DT, the children have created amazing water filter designs in preparation for building their own water filters at the end of term.



Year 6

Year 6 have had an brilliant start to Term 2. Their determination with diving into their new topic in Maths, Fractions, has been excellent. In English, they have been studying why an author uses figurative language, whilst looking at the text Beowulf. In Science, they have been looking at different energy sources: chemical, thermal, gravitational potential, elastic potential and kinetic.

In Geography, the children have understood what it takes to complete fieldwork, which the trip this term to Slapton Ley enhanced excellently. In RE, the children have been learning about Islam, so far studying the variety of Art, identifying the 5 Pillars of Islam and learning facts about Muslims around the world.



In Music, they have been looking at the instruments that are used to develop feeling within a song, lending itself nicely to learning how to play the Glockenspiel.

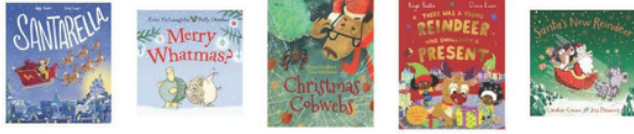
In DT, they have been studying a brand-new topic to Year 6, Bridge Structures, with the aim to build their very own in small groups later in the term. With Christmas fast approaching, the children are gearing up to wonderful last few weeks of Term 2. We are very pleased to see how resilient and focused they have been all term and are excited to see what the next few weeks will bring.

Primary School Book Gift Guide 2023



Recommended for ages 3-5

NEW for this Christmas



Recommended Bedtime Stories



Super-fun Stories



Classic Stories



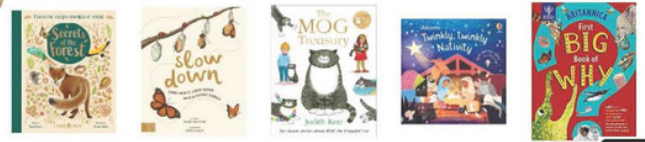
Non-Fiction Books



Award Winning Books



Gorgeous Gift Books



For more book lists themed by age group or topic, visit booksfortopics.com



Primary School Book Gift Guide 2023



Recommended for ages 5-7

NEW for this Christmas



Recommended Bedtime Stories



Super-fun Stories



First Chapter Books



Non-Fiction Books



Award Winning Books



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Primary School Book Gift Guide 2023



Recommended for ages 7-9

NEW for this Christmas



Recommended Bedtime Stories



Super-fun Stories



Getting Hooked on Reading



Non-Fiction Books



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THE
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Winter Mini Challenge

Join the Ready, Set, **Read!** Winter Mini Challenge

from 1 December 2023

Get
rewards
for your
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wintermini.org.uk



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ACTIVE
READERS

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AGENCY



PLYMOUTH SOUP RUN

Reverse Advent Calendar 2023

This year, Marine Academy Primary are collecting donations for Plymouth Soup Run, a charity which supports adult homelessness in Plymouth.

All contributions will be turned into hampers for homeless and vulnerable people around Plymouth, to give them a gift for Christmas too!

Donations can include:

- scarves, gloves, hats & socks
- shower gel, shampoo
- hairbrushes, combs
- deodorant
- wetwipes & tissues
- sugar
- pot noodles
- long life milk
- breakfast & chocolate bars
- crisps
- instant porridge & drinks
- bottles of water & juice
- dessert pots



**Please give ANY
donations to
class teachers between:**

**Monday 4th - Friday
8th December**

**Thank you for your
donations!**

December Kindness 2023

MONDAY



4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

TUESDAY



5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

WEDNESDAY



6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

THURSDAY



7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

FRIDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

SATURDAY

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

SUNDAY

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2024



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



Recommend a Recipe

We would love it if you could try these recipes at home and send in a picture of you eating the recipe with your families or a food review to primary@marineacademy.org.uk.



Christmas Chocolate Bark



Ingredients

600g white chocolate, broken into squares

Red and green gel food colouring

Christmas sprinkles, cake toppers or edible glitter

Mini marshmallows

Crushed candy canes

Jelly sweets

A baking tray lined with baking parchment

Skewers or cocktail sticks

Gift boxes or cellophane

Christmas ribbon

Method

1. Melt the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of barely simmering water.
2. Divide the chocolate between three bowls. Using the food colouring, colour two of the bowls red and green. Gel food colouring is very strong, so start by adding a very small amount using a skewer or cocktail stick, stirring it in well. Add more until you get the shade you like.
3. Pour the chocolate from the three bowls onto the baking parchment in puddles. The puddles should start to join together.
4. Use a cocktail stick or skewer to swirl the three colours around to make a big marbled slab of melted chocolate.
5. Sprinkle with sweets and decorations of your choice.
6. Leave overnight in a cool place to set.
7. Break the bark into pieces. Wrap it in cellophane or place it in gift boxes lined with baking parchment. Tie with a festive ribbon and add a label.


CLIMB ON[®] TH

Christmas at the Climbing Wall!!



Can you find the Elf?
Why not come give it a try – the Elf
will be hidden in several locations
within the Climbing Wall.
A reward for those who find the Elf's!

My Elf's have gone missing,
in the Climbing Wall.
Can you help me find them?

Come join in the fun from December 1st!
Anyone is welcome to take part – just pop in! No
booking required.
A scoresheet will be given for you to mark where
you have seen the sneaky Elf's hiding!
Hand the scoresheet in at the end to get your
reward for helping Santa!
Cost – Entry fee + an additional £1.50 to take part
in find the Elf!

Located in the Plymouth Life Centre.
40 Mayflower Drive, Plymouth, PL2 3DG

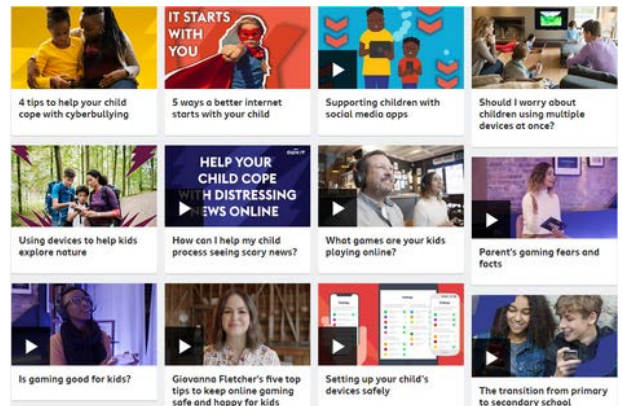
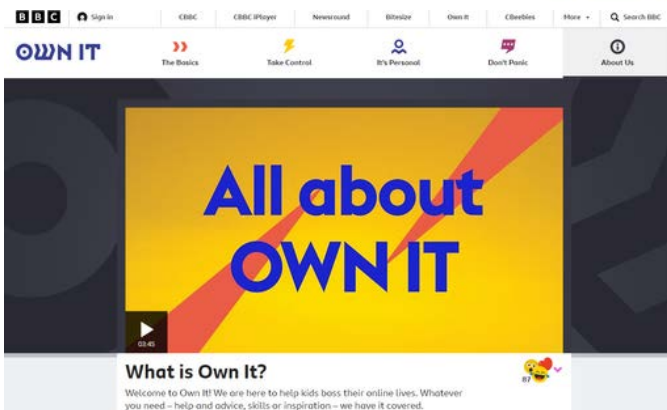


ONLINE SAFETY

As we approach Christmas, it may be the case that children are gifted new devices and spend an increasing amount of time online. With this in mind, we have some helpful guidance to support you with ensuring your child has a positive experience online.

If you have any further questions or concerns about e-safety, please contact our Computing leader, Mr Druce, by emailing: primary@marineacademy.org.uk FAO: Mr Druce.

BBC OWN IT



This area of the BBC website is fantastic for supporting children with taking some responsibility for their online lives. It covers vlogging, managing online interactions and ways of looking after personal wellbeing.

The parents section is also a great toolkit to help your children navigate life online, including handy tips on setting up your child's first devices and videos addressing common concerns about online gaming.



Screen breaks

It is important to encourage your child to take frequent screen breaks as this can reduce eye strain and fatigue. Here are some creative ways of implementing these.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe - with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends - but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

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



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the '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.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).



CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.



DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.



CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up - and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.



KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child 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.



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 malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).



Meet Our Expert

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



National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/320579205822-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-I-use-it> | <https://www.snap.com/en/GB/news/safety-tips-from-my-ai-and-new-safety-enhancements>
<https://bbc.com/news/2022/04/snapchat-locating-sharing-challenge/> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/320579205822>

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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DECEMBER

Wednesday Drop In sessions 10-12pm



6/12/23



Plymouth Community Homes
and Barne Barton Community
Builder



13/12/23



Construction Skills Drop In
Apprenticeships, training, employment

20/12/23



Mental Health Drop In
PCMHT and Headsapce



St Budeaux and Barne Barton
Wellbeing Hub





PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

Cost of living

Help IN Plymouth

We know that the rising cost of living is a real worry for hard-working and struggling households in Plymouth and across the country as a whole. We have created our cost of living hub to make it as easy as possible to find help with rising bills and costs.

Here you will find signposts to the help that's on offer - from financial support including information about benefits or help with budgeting, to where to go to get help with gas and electricity bills.

Our hub also includes information on help with Council Tax, housing costs and support with food costs, as well as how to contact voluntary organisations working across the city.

Remember - if you are struggling, you are not alone and there is no shame in asking for help. Everyone needs a little bit of extra support at some point in their lives.

The Council has launched a new, city-wide [Cost of Living Plan](#) which outlines how residents will be supported throughout the crisis.



[Financial help and advice](#) >

Information about benefits, budgeting, debt and scam advice



[Help with energy costs](#) >

Find out about the help available if you are worried about energy bills



[Free things to do in Plymouth](#) >

Free things for everyone to enjoy in Plymouth



[Help with food costs](#) >

Organisations that can help if you need support feeding your family or yourself



[Household Support Fund](#) >

Extra support with food and energy bills available for Plymouth households



[Help for families](#) >

If you have children and are struggling, make sure you are claiming all the support available to you



[Mental health support](#) >

Services and organisations are here to help if you are struggling and need support



[Housing costs, bills and homelessness support](#) >

Help available if you're struggling with housing costs and bills, or are at risk of becoming homeless



[Employment and skills support](#) >

Support for learning new skills, or help to find a new job



[Welcoming spaces](#) >

Welcoming places in Plymouth you can visit



[Guidance for employers](#) >

Plymouth Charter's toolkit with actions for employers to support employees