"Pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare is <u>OUTSTANDING</u>" (Ofsted, 2019)

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 20th October 2023   **Vol: 1 Issue: 6**

Headteacher's Notices

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2023

The Royal British Legion is working hard to support the most vulnerable in our society, be it older veterans that they care for, those who suffer from social isolation, or those who are simply   overwhelmed by the challenges associated with the cost-of-living crisis.

In school, we take pride in supporting the work of this important charity, and have a stock of Poppy Appeal merchandise to sell to support our donations. These items are now available to purchase in school, and I hope that we can raise some funds to support the ongoing work of the Royal British Legion. Thank you.

Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Challenge

Colleagues from the Durham Action Against Crime group visited school on Tuesday to deliver their intro-duction to the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Challenge. Although normally only delivered to children in Year 5, the visitors to school were so impressed by the engagement of the children in Year 4, that they have agreed to include these children in the project also.

This project is aimed at providing children with opportunities to support their local community, learn about the negative impact of anti-social behaviour on our communities and to be aware of how they can keep themselves and others safe.

Children in Year 4 and Year 5 will begin by completing weekly challenges, supported by Mrs Kyle, who is leading the project in school.

Team Parent/ Carer Information and Teacher/ Parent Consultations —Autumn 2023

In order to provide parents/ carers with up to date details on their child's Team, including information on the curriculum, expectations regarding homework and other useful information, each Team has uploaded a Team information presentation to their Class Story pages today.

Normally, this information is shared in face-to-face meetings; however, I am acutely aware of the pressure families are   under with work and other commitments, and due to COVID infections being high at present amongst school staff, it is my hope that sharing the information in this format may reach more families. Of course, if any parent/ carer has any questions or queries regarding any aspect of their child's Team presentation, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

<u>Parent/ Teacher consultations for the Autumn term are planned on Wednesday 29th (face to face) and Thursday 30th November (telephone). The booking system to make an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher will be made available on Monday 23rd October.</u>

Team Dahl Educational Visit

Children in Team Dahl enjoyed a fun and interesting visit to St. Catherine's Church in Crook on Wednesday, as part of wider learning around their current unit in Religious Education. To enhance the visit, children and staff took the public service bus from Stanley Crook and thoroughly enjoyed their experience on the bus to Crook. For many children, this was their first experience of travelling by bus and some children were ecstatic at being able to keep their very first bus ticket!

The members of the church who facilitated the visit, were extremely impressed by the knowledge and understanding on show, as the children participated in a range of learning activities.

Great work, TEAM Dahl—be proud!

Halloween Disco—Wednesday 25th October

The children are very excited for our school's annual Halloween Disco on Wednesday. There will be lots of spooky fun, pizza, hotdogs and dancing at Mr Shaun's disco.

<u>Team Donaldson and Team Dahl: 3:15pm to 4:15pm</u>

<u>Team Cowell, Team Walliams and Team Morpurgo: 4:30pm to 5:30pm</u>

Children in Team Donaldson and Team Dahl are welcome to bring their costumes to school to change into at the end of the school day, as are children in Teams Cowell, Walliams and Morpurgo who are staying in school for wraparound provision.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Christie

Headteacher

For the most up to date information about what is going on in our school inluding dates for your diaries, parental information and school performance information, please visit our website at:

https://www.stanleycrook.durham.sch.uk

Please scan your smartphone device over the QR code to be taken straight to our school website!

Headteacher's T.E.A.M. of the Week

Team of the Week this week is...Team Cowell

WOW! Well done, Team Cowell

I have been so extremely impressed by your positive approaches to learning this week and of the support you have shown one another in class, and to Mrs Clarey!

In particular, I was so proud of each of you in the ways in which you all supported ████ during her first day at Stanley Crook! Your support and encouragement ensured that ████ had a great first day at our school, and she now cannot wait to come back on her next visit!

Be proud!

Mr C

Weekly T.E.A.M. Attendance Champions

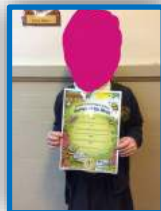| Team Donaldson	89.4%
Team Dahl	95.7%
Team Cowell	100%
Team Walliams	95.8%
Team Morpurgo	94.1

Congratulations to

TEAM COWELL!

This week's attendance trophy winners!

Children's Achievements in School!

Each week, one child is chosen as 'Headteacher's Star of the Week', 'School Values Champion' and 'Attendance Champion'. Staff also choose a pupil from each Team to be recognised for something special they have achieved during the week! This week's chosen children are:

Congratulations to all of our pupils for their effort and outstanding effort and hard work in our school!

'Together Everyone Achieves More'

Online Safety - TOP TIPS

A free online safety guide on Snapchat

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app through which users can chat with friends via text or audio. Images and videos can be shared with specific friends, or as a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) which is visible to a person's entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose significantly during the lockdown periods, with many young people utilising it to stay connected with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivalling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

In the guide, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as sexting, visible location and contact from strangers.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

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 AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

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.

CAUTION

Add ME

#NOFILTER

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.

NOS National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/10257819035830-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-I-use-it | https://values.snap.com/en-GB/news/early-learnings-from-my-ai-and-new-safety-enhancements https://tech.co/mac/2023/04/19/snapchat-live-location-sharing-chatgpt/ | https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012304146844