



St Mary's News

Parent Information- Chaos to Calm Workshop



The Chaos to Calm workshop explores :

- Parent-child interactions and relationships .
- Learn about childrens' behaviour and the triggers for challenging behaviour and what reinforces behaviour.
- Help develop strategies for managing difficult behaviours.
- Normalise the experience of needing help with parenting and to support parents to remove self-blame.

Parents are welcome to ask questions or share any tips or strategies that they find beneficial in supporting their child.



1 - Come and join us in school on Tuesday 15th September at 9am!





Arbor Help

Parents can enable push notifications when installing the Parent App on their phone, which means they'll be notified when they've been sent a new in-app message (whether they're logged in or not).



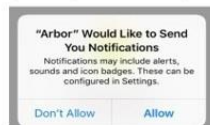
Sometimes, parents may stop receiving push notifications to their phones. Even though they may have enabled push notifications on their phones, iOS devices occasionally block push notifications if the phone is receiving a lot of them.

If they do stop receiving messages, they can complete the below steps to enable them again:

1. Close the Parent App (make sure that it's not running at the background - see [this video](#) on how to do this)
2. Go to your settings and switch OFF push notifications for the Parent App.
3. Restart your phone.
4. Go to the settings and switch ON push notification for the Parent App.
5. Restart your phone again.
6. You should then be able to receive push notifications again.



If after all the steps above have been completed and push notifications are still not appearing, uninstall the Parent App from the device and install it again. When installing the second time, make sure that you agree to receive push notifications from the app.



Important information

Powered by Breakfast!

You wouldn't expect a car to run without fuel... and children are exactly the same!

Please make sure your child has some breakfast before coming to school each morning. Hungry brains find it much harder to concentrate, learn, remember things, and tackle the school day — especially before lunchtime arrives.

It doesn't have to be anything fancy. A bowl of cereal, some toast, fruit, porridge, or even a quick banana on the way out of the door can help give children the energy they need for a busy morning of learning, playing, and growing.

After all, spelling tests, maths lessons, and playground adventures are serious business!

Thank you for helping us keep our learners fuelled up and ready for the day ahead.

As some of you may have seen, St Marys recently joined TikTok!! Please can we remind parents to complete the consent form on Arbor to let us know if you are happy for child to

feature on our account. If you don't want you your child to be on our account please still fill out the consent so that we can

Many thanks



This weeks birthdays! 🎂

Here are all the children who celebrated their birthday this week or will be celebrating this weekend, HAPPY BIRTHDAY! 🎂

- Harry (Year 5)
- Oliver (Year 6)
- Theon (Year 3)
- Evie (Reception)
- Brody (Year 1)
- Lucas (Year 3)
- Jamie (Reception)
- Isaac (Year 6)
- Elena (Reception)
- Amina (Year 2)
- Evie (Year 5)
- Amelia (Reception)

- Austin (Year 1)
- Deborah (Reception)
- Sophia (Year 4)
- Jack (Year 4)
- Jakub (Year 4)
- Caiden (Year 1)
- Grace (Year 4)
- Justice (Reception)
- Harrison-George (Year 1)
- Sonnie (Year 5)
- Hughie (Year 1)
- Ava-Sophia (Year 5)

What's been going on this week?





In year 1 forest school, we have been swinging our way through the day.



Thursday's Art lesson sketching out movements and showing emotion in depth through sport actions. Well done Year 5.



On Wednesday in Reception we have been singing the song 5 little speckle frogs, the children really enjoyed singing



Year 5 loving reading Narnia, exploring new vocabulary and using our five senses.





Year 1 have been busy outside searching and identifying different types of bugs. In English we are currently reading the story 'Naughty Bus' so Year 1 have been making food for the passengers on the bus and creating their own Naughty bus.



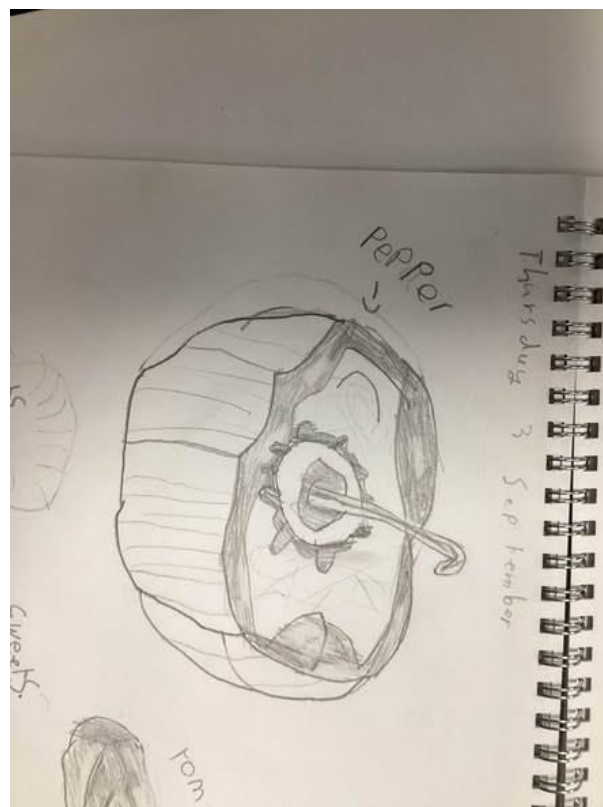
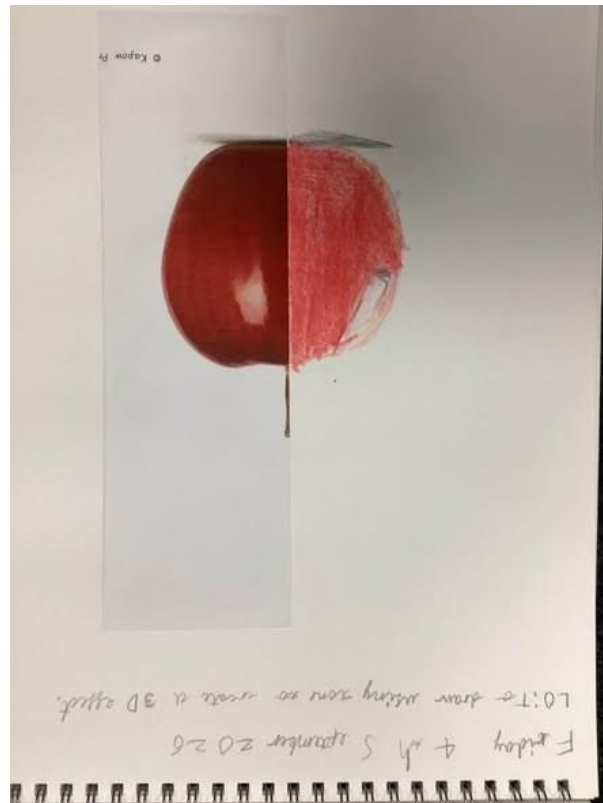


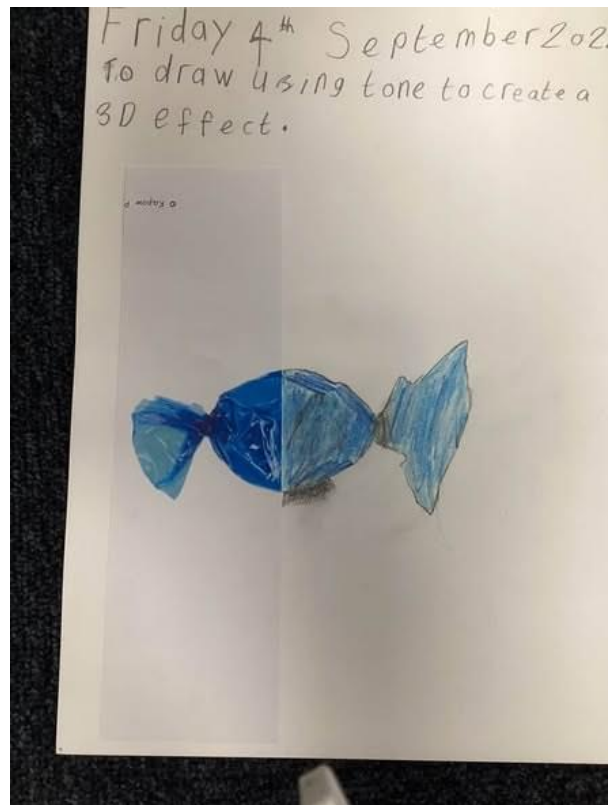
WHATS IN OUR WOODLAND?

This afternoon in forest school, year 2 have been investigating what creatures may live in our woodland. We found evidence of chewed leaves and different forage that animals may be

eating, as well as some berries, mushrooms and nuts. We even found some animal tracks in the mud!

We then made our own mini-habitats to help our wildlife





Last week year 4 created their own 3D drawings



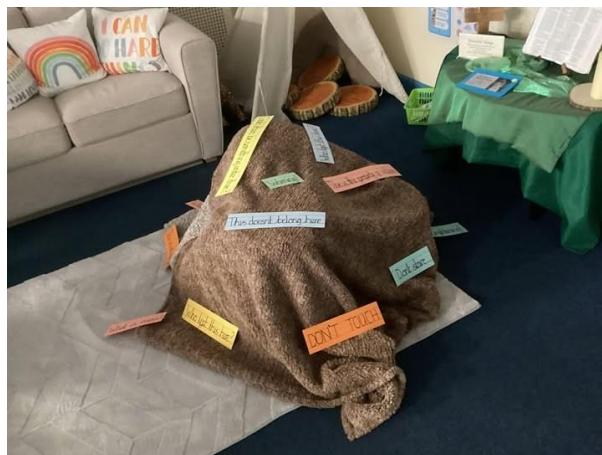


Year 4 have been enjoying their new guided reading book 'Viking Voyages'



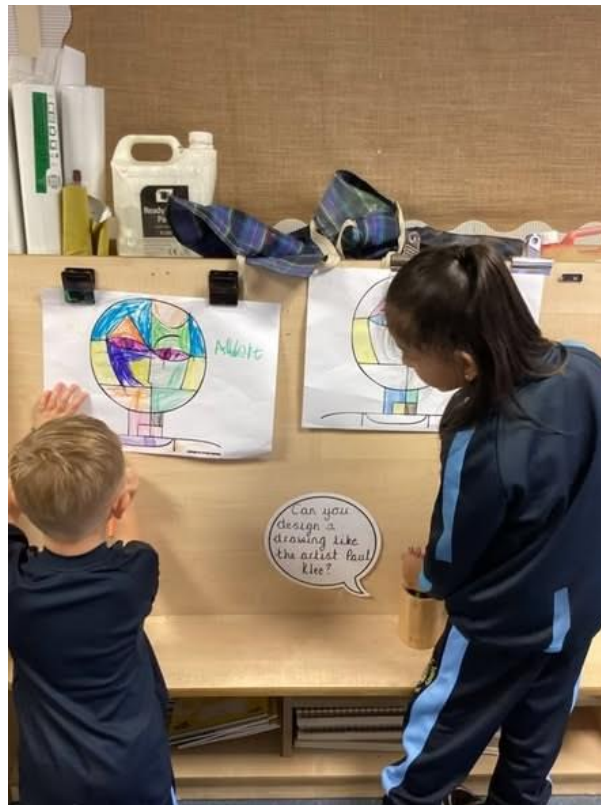


After school forest school club is back with a bang



What is happening in year 2? We have a mysterious package and are going to need our best investigating skills to work out what it might be.



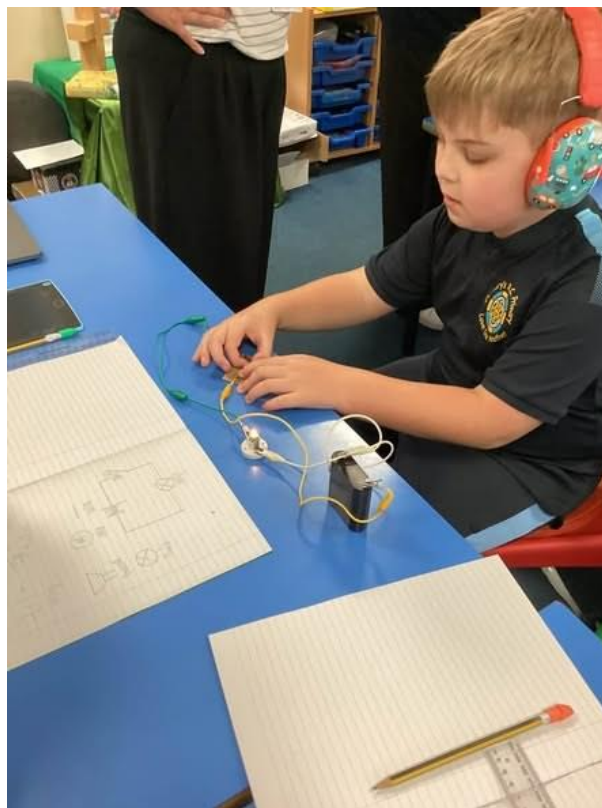


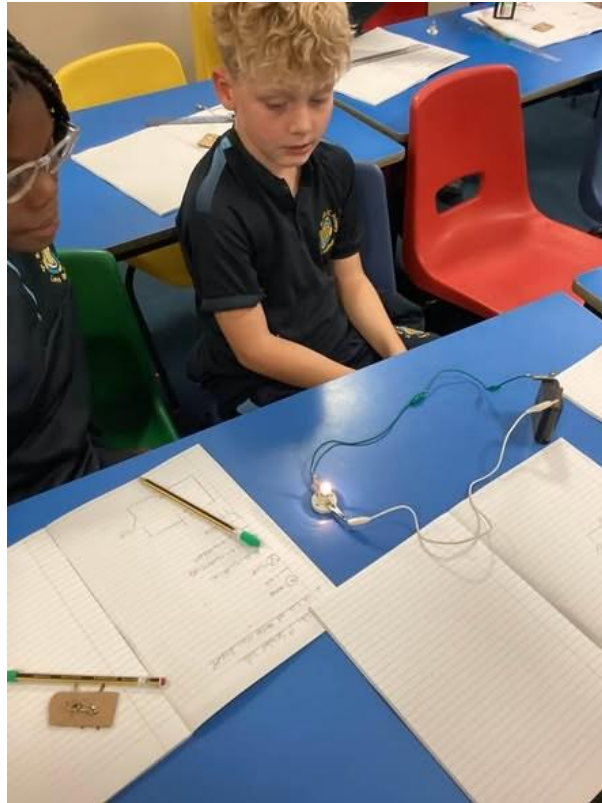
Year 1 have made an amazing start to the new school year! They have all settled in well and have already produced some fantastic work for our display





Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the new school year. We have been filling up on knowledge through reading, using our maths equipment and learning about the books of the Bible. We can't wait to come back next week.





Year 6 have had a brilliant start to their school year. They are already setting a fabulous example to our younger children and proving themselves to be super role models. They have enjoyed practical science lessons, art, hockey plus much more. Keep up the good work!





Our new Reception children are settling in extremely well and are making new friends. The EYFS team are so proud of you all and are excited for when you are all in next week



Children were treated to watch the production of Pinocchio this morning. They all had an amazing time!



A huge well done to our Reception children who have settled in so well and have completed their first full week at St Mary's. We are really proud of you all and glad you enjoyed the theatre production of Pinocchio in school this morning. Here are some activities they have enjoyed this week.

Healthy Snack

At break time, children will only be allowed to bring fruit or vegetables as a snack. As a healthy school, we want to encourage good eating habits, support children's wellbeing, and help them stay focused and energized for learning.

Children in Reception to Year 2 will continue to be provided with fruit in school, so there is no need to send in a snack for these year groups.

Children in Key Stage 2 may bring in a piece of fruit or vegetables only to enjoy at break time.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us promote a healthy school.  

School office notices

Parents,

If there are any changes in terms of allergies, medication, contact numbers, photo consent or anything we need to know about please ensure that you are keeping us regularly up to date. If you also would like to come in and check with us that what we have on our system is correct please call into the office, it is so important that we have all the correct and relevant information to keep your children safe.

Kind Regards

The office team



St. Mary's R.C. Primary School
A Voluntary Academy

Holcombe Drive, Burnley, Lancashire BB10 4BH
Tel: (01282) 427546

e-mail: messages@st-marys-burnley.lancs.sch.uk
web-site: www.st-marys-burnley.lancs.sch.uk

Head teacher: Mr Ian Jones



Dear Parents/Carers

Due to a child in our school with a severe nut allergy we are now a nut free school.

Please ensure that any snack or packed lunch your child brings to school does not contain any nuts.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

School Office

Parents Noticeboard



East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

Concerned about your Mental Health? Are you under 18 or concerned about someone under 18?

Advice sessions are available on-line via
'Attend Anywhere'
Delivered by CYPMH East
tinyurl.com/ELCAS-LSCTF



Enter the word "CYPMH East" as the first name and "drop in" as the
second name followed by your date of birth.
You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.

Wednesday 2 nd September 2026	1pm – 3pm
Wednesday 9 th September 2026	3pm – 5pm
Wednesday 16 th September 2026	5pm – 7pm
Wednesday 23 rd September 2026	1pm – 3pm



AUTUMN 2026

WHAT'S ON?

MONDAYS

THRIVE & WORK WELL

10-3pm
Support with skills, training, employment and wellbeing. Receive tailored advice, help with CVs and interviews, and access to wellbeing support. Whether you're looking for work, in employment, or off work due to illness, support is available, including funding for activities such as gym and term passes.
Contact: 01282 686213

ICANN

10-3pm
Help with living in benefits forms, PIP, ESA/S1, UCSD, CHD CLA, AA.
01772 540 460 to book an appointment

ALPHA COURSE

10.30-12pm
The Alpha Course is a great place to ask the big questions of life, meet new people, and discover more about the Christian faith.
Life Church 01282 684160
info@lifachurch.org

12 STEP LIFE RECOVERY

12-3pm
12 Step Life Recovery supports individuals in their struggles with different types of addiction and dependencies. The meetings are 100% confidential.
07807 434607
michael@liferescovery.co.uk

TUESDAYS

Helping Headstart Peer Support Group

North West Headstart
1-3pm (Every other week starting 1st September)
A peer to peer support group where the model people can meet in a non-judgmental safe space, to support each other with handling behaviour, access further support and build down barriers together.
07583 231 152

WEDNESDAYS

CITIZEN'S ADVICE

9-12pm
Supporting with a range of queries such as Benefits, Housing, Family, Employment, Children and specialist Debt help for those in financial difficulty.
0800 276 7055
www.cad.ac.uk

ICANN

10-4pm
See Monday for details.

PATH

10 - 11.30am
(18th September, 21st October, 18th November, 15th December)
Parenting can be hard, especially if your child or teen is struggling emotionally, and/or has a mental health problem. You can start to feel isolated but are not alone. Why not drop in for a bite and get advice, support, and chat to other parents who understand the struggles.
hollee@parentpath.ac.uk

BURNLEY COUNCIL HOUSING

10-12pm
(20th September, 26th October, 25th November)
Advice and information on all Housing Issues.
enquiries@burnley.gov.uk | 01282 472244

NATIONAL ENERGY ACTION (NEA)

10-12pm
(1st and 2nd Wednesday of the month)
Concerned about your energy costs? Access free, confidential and impartial energy advice to help you understand your energy bills and meter, improve energy efficiency, manage household energy costs, and reduce energy debt. Advisers can also help you explore the support available and support you to speculate financial support.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

New Era Burnley
10-12pm
Need a little help with digital skills or managing your money? We're here to support you. Whether you'd like help staying safe online, using apps on your phone, accessing online services, or managing the costs of everyday living, our friendly team can provide support that's tailored to your individual needs. Pop in for a chat, ask a quick question, or access ongoing support.
01282 485 302

NORTHERN COMMUNITY BANK

10-1pm
(28th September, 14th October, 11th November, 26th December)
An easy, ethical way to save, and a convenient and affordable way to borrow.
nebcburnley.co.uk

BURNLEY HEALTH & WELLBEING TEAM

10-3pm
Supporting you with physical and mental health, health, including social isolation, and healthy living.
burnleyhda.net

DEMENTIA CARERS PEER SUPPORT GROUP

11-1pm
(2nd September, 7th October, 4th November, 2nd December)
Do you care for a friend or family member who is living with Dementia? Come along to our monthly peer support group to chat with people living in a similar situation. A dedicated staff member from Carers Link will be on hand to support you.
01284 287464

CARERS LINK MEET UP

11-3pm
(23rd September, 28th October, 25th November)
Carers and the people you care for, join us for a cuppa and lunch in the Down Town cafe. A warm welcome for everyone.
01284 287 464

THURSDAY

CAP DEBT SUPPORT

9.30-12pm
(17th September, 15th October, 18th November, 17th December)
Expert debt counselling with support for repayment, insolvency, long term housing issues, and more complex cases.
07682728814 | anthony@debtadvice.org.uk

CONNECT TO WORK - EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT DROP IN

10-3pm
(2nd & 15th September, 1st, 15th & 28th October, 12th & 26th November and 15th December)
Fully funded programme supporting individuals to secure business to paid employment.

WORK WELL

10-3pm
See Monday for details.

RED ROSE RECOVERY FAMILY SUPPORT

10.30-12pm
(2nd September, 1st October, 5th November, 2nd December)
The group is for families and loved ones who need a safe space to share about what is going on for them around caring for or living with someone in addition, offering tools and advice and support.

ANN'S CRAFTY CROP FOR WELLBEING

1-3pm
Join us for an afternoon of craft and chat where everyone is welcome.

FRIDAYS

NATTERSHACK

10am onwards
Come take a seat... See who you meet! All ages welcome - no need to book. Come for a water with coffee and cake or stay for lunch and/or a drink.
chris@nattershack.com

FOODIE FRIDAYS AT DOWN TOWN

10-12pm
Looking to build your cooking confidence and try new recipes? Come along to a fun and practical cooking program designed for you to cook healthy meals on a budget, meet others, and take home great food and skills!
To book your place 01282 686402
contact@burnleytogether.org.uk

ICANN

10-3pm
See Monday for details.

BURNLEY HEALTH & WELLBEING TEAM

10-3pm
See Wednesday for details.

ASD PEER SUPPORT GROUP

10-3pm
(10th September, 2nd October, 6th November, 6th December)
Peer support to provide a safe space, and anyone can join in no need to book.
01284 287464

KNIT AND NATTER

12-3pm
Relaxed, informal group where everyone is welcome.

THE FREEDOM PROGRAMME AND RECOVERY & EMPOWERMENT

Non judgemental, friendly groups around Domestic Abuse and recovery. Run by experienced practitioners. Please see staff for more details or contact Burnley Together.

For any information, support or guidance please contact Burnley Together on 01282 686402 or contact@burnleytogether.org.uk or facebook.com/BurnleyTogether



WARM Matters Burnley

 **Tuesday 6th October**

 **10:30am to 2:30pm**

 **Down Town Charter Walk Shopping Centre (Above New Look), Burnley**

 **Free Event**

 **No booking required - just drop in**

This event brings together a range of local organisations and support services to help residents prepare for winter and access advice on:

- Keeping safe, warm and well during the colder months
- Reducing energy costs and improving home energy efficiency
- Financial, health and wellbeing support
- Cost of living advice and practical assistance

There will also be:

- **FREE prize draw**
- **Giveaways**
- **FREE Hot drinks and soup**
- **Opportunities to speak directly with local support services**

Worried about winter? No need to be. Support is available before the colder weather arrives. Whether you are looking for advice for yourself, your family, or someone you support, please come along and find out what help is available.

Breakfast & Afterschool Club

Please can you ensure that all sessions for Breakfast and Afterschool club are pre-booked and paid for on our new Parent app Arbor.

Also when collecting children please make sure you sign your child out from afterschool club.

Many thanks for your continued support

Forest School /Outdoor learning Sessions - Autumn 1

See below for Year Groups who will be accessing Forest School /outdoor learning this term (until October half term). Please make sure your child brings in suitable wellies and waterproofs.

They may come to school wearing old clothes on the day of their Forest School. If you are struggling with providing waterproofs and wellies please come and speak to us and we can help .

- Year 3 - Tuesday PM
- Year 2 - Wednesday PM
- Year 1 - Thursday PM
- Year 5 - Friday PM

Year 4 Swimming

Our year 4's swimming lessons started on Wednesday 9th September and will continue every Wednesday for the rest of the Autumn term. Please make sure children are bringing their swim costume/shorts, towel and girls require to have their hair neatly tied up in a bun/plait.

Library

  **Guess what? Our library has opened its doors to everyone and their grown-ups... and we can't wait!**  **Every Friday after school, the library will turn into a cosy little adventure zone where you can:**

- Dive into new stories
- Discover magical worlds
- Pick out a brilliant book to take home

Bring your curiosity, bring your imagination — and bring your grown-ups too. We'd love to see you there!

Please note the library is now located in the main school building, pop into the office and we can show you the way!

Lunchtime Clubs

Next week we have some of the following clubs starting during lunchtimes... if you would love to learn a new hobby or practise some existing skills please come along!

Monday Lunchtime - Chaplaincy Team (existing members only)

Monday Lunchtime - Well-being Warriors

Thursday Lunchtime - Dance Club (KS2 Children)

Thursday Lunchtime - Prodigy/Timestable Rockstars Maths Practice (Years 3 &4)

Friday Lunchtime - School Council (existing members only)

Learning Letters Autumn 1



Can you design and make your own bus?



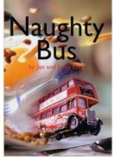
Can you make your own octopus using different materials?

Homework

We continue to ask that children read their reading books when they are sent home and bring them back every Monday.

You will see below a few ideas for activities relating to our current topic. Please use one of these ideas or use your own idea as a basis for a home learning challenge this half-term. You can draw pictures, write sentences, or even take photographs of the work that you have carried out at home. Please hand your homework into school on or before **Thursday 28th October** so that we celebrate the children's hard work.

Year 1
Miss Daley
Learning Letter Autumn 1 2026




Mathematics

This half term we are focusing on Place Value within 10. Within this unit we will be counting forwards and backwards from a given number, exploring ways we can represent these numbers and using the vocabulary less than, greater than and equal to.

Key Instant Recall facts

- Counting forwards and backwards from any number up to 10
- Recognise numbers as words
- 1 more and 1 less of any number up to 10

English

This half term we will read 2 books which are Naughty Bus by Jan and Jerry Oke and Leo and the Octopus by Isabelle Matheo

Throughout our adventure themed story 'Naughty Bus', the children will be writing letters, diaries, zodiac and non-chronological reports.

Throughout the unit Leo and the Octopus, the children will be writing This is me! Posters, letters of advice, and factual descriptions.

Children will take part in a minimum of 3 reading practices a week – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We focus on different aspects of reading throughout these 3 days. This includes...

Reading practice 1: Decoding – identifying phonics within text
Reading practice 2: Prosody – reading with expression.
Reading practice 3: Comprehension – questioning throughout the story.

The same book is sent home on **Wednesdays** for children to read along with a reading for pleasure book.

Religious Education

The unit this term is called 'Creation and Covenant'. The unit will include:

- The Creation story
- Laudato Si (the importance of taking care of the world)
- Identifying ways the world is being harmed and helped in different places
- The Our Father Prayer

Topic

In **Art**, the children will be looking at the unit 'Drawing – exploring line and shape. We will also be looking at the artists Paul Klee and Bridget Riley.

In **Science**, Year 1 will look closely at 'Animals including Humans'. The children will be identifying and naming different body parts, looking at different organs and the important jobs they have and identifying the 5 senses.

In **History**, Year 1 will study 'Schools – Past and Present'. By the end of the topic children will identify similarities and differences between schools in different times, sequence familiar events and objects and take part in **being it**, a Victorian classroom!

In **ICT**, Year 1 will be working on the unit Computing Systems and Networks – Technology around us. Learners will familiarise themselves with typing on a keyboard and using a mouse as well as using technology responsibly.

In **Music**, the children will be exploring the unit - My Musical Heartbeat. Children will be using different instruments independently, singing and performing.

Forest school will be every Thursday this half term. Please ensure your child has the correct clothing and footwear to be able to do this regardless of the weather.

Thank you all for your support! Please contact school if you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, or wish to discuss any other issue.

Year 2

Learning Letter Autumn 1 2026



St Mary's R.C. Primary School, Burnley

Learn and grow together in Christ.

Homework Learning Challenge

This half term in science we are learning about living things and their habitats.

We will be learning about lots of different animals and looking at what things they need to survive.

Children are encouraged to create a model habitat for a child of their choice. They may like to choose a rabbit, fox, bird, fish or another animal of their choice.

As hoe box is a fantastic item to use for the habitat and research and class learning will advise what materials to use to create the habitat.

We can't wait to see what amazing projects the children create.



ENGLISH – This half term in English year 2 will be reading The Bear under the Stars, Joe and the Beeswax and Rosie the Engineer. The children will create File of four entry, letters seeking and giving advice, oral retellings.

READING PRACTICE – Children will take part in a minimum of 3 reading practices a week – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We will focus on different aspects of reading throughout these 3 days. The same book is sent home on Thursdays for children to read and must be returned every Monday.



MATHS – Our Maths focus will be place value and will include lots of partitioning numbers in different ways, counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and recognising the value of each digit.

We then move on to addition and subtraction where we subtract within a hundred, use number bonds to 20 and solve missing number problems.

Children can also practice their times tables (2's, 5's and 10's) at home using TT Rockstars.



SCIENCE – Living things and their habitats are this half term's focus where we will look at things that are living or dead and learn what different animals need to survive. We will then look at their different habitats and discover why different animals live in different areas of the world.



GEOGRAPHY – This half term we will be learning about our local area. We will be Differences between urban and rural areas and looking at features of our school grounds, features of our local area, identifying Ordnance Survey map symbols and creating a map of our local area.

RE – The unit this half term is Creation and Covenant. God's promise and caring for God's world.

IT – We will be studying different mechanisms, how they work and the job they do. We will then be creating our own moving project.

COMPUTING – We will be looking at the IT around us and how it is used.

PE – This will take place every Thursday and we will be learning skills in playground games.

MUSIC – Children will listen and appraise different styles of South African music, learn to find the beat and pulse of songs using different games and perfect our singing and musical instrument skills.

Forest school will be every Wednesday this half term.

Please ensure your child has the correct clothing and footwear to be able to do this regardless of the weather.

Y3's KIRFS (key instant recall facts) for this half term are the eight times table. Children should be able to instantly recall multiplication and division facts up to 8x12=96. These will be practiced in class on a daily basis, but additional learning at home makes all the difference. Pupils can access the **TimesTablesRockstars** application at home; login details are in home reading records. More information on the **KIRFS** can be found on the class page of the school website.

Home Learning Challenge...

Have a go at home! These home learning challenges are a great way to secure your learning whilst having fun at the same time!

You will see below a few ideas for possible activities to complete at home relating to our current topics. You can draw pictures, write sentences or even take photographs. You can send any videos or pictures through class dojo. Please hand your homework in on or before **Friday 16th October** so that we celebrate the children's hard work in class and award prizes and dojos! Have fun!

Write up the creation story and illustrate it.

Create a shadow puppet performance. Send the video into dojo.

Create an Anglo-Saxon settlement using Minecraft/Lego or design your own Anglo-Saxon jewelry.

Design your own circus. You can make it however you like using a medium of your choice.



ROMERO

Learn and Grow Together in Christ



Art & History
Developing Drawing Skills & Anglo-Saxons

Year 3 Learning Letter
Mrs Tyson Autumn 1 2026

Mathematics The Autumn term concentrates on developing strong number sense and calculation fluency. Pupils deepen their understanding of place value to 1,000, apply this knowledge to addition and subtraction, and begin to build secure multiplication and division foundations that will support later learning in Year 3. English The key texts for this half-term are <i>Leon & the Place between</i> by Graham Baker Smith and <i>Our Tower Joseph Coelho</i> as part of our new English scheme. The children will explore these texts and complete writing opportunities such as letters, lists of rules, character descriptions, diaries, short playscripts, short reports, guides, poems, setting descriptions, diary entries, dialogue and letters of thanks. Reading Children will participate in four twenty-minute guided reading sessions per week. Each week the whole class will focus on a text. After reading the text, we will focus on questions based on the VIPERS (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explain, retrieve, summarise) reading targets. Children who read, succeed! Please try to listen to your child read at home as much as possible. Just five minutes a day can make a huge difference. We will listen to children read in school so please ensure your children bring their reading book in DAILY so we can sign their diaries. Religious Education The children will be continuing the new scheme 'Lighting the Path' that they started in year 2. The focus for autumn term is a deeper understanding of the Creation story as the basis of care of themselves, others and the global community.	History Our History focus this half-term is the Anglo-Saxons. The children will build on their chronology skills, learn about events, people and changes in Britain during this period, develop their enquiry and communication skills and use and interpret different sources and what they tell us. The children will learn about: - Anglo-Saxon timeline of events - Geography of Great Britain during the Anglo-Saxon era - The Anglo-Saxon kings Alfred the Great and Athelstan - Anglo-Saxon culture - Paganism and the introduction of Christianity. Science This term the children will be covering Light in Science. They will be learning about how light travels, reflection, how the sun can be dangerous and they will conduct an investigation into shadows. Art In this unit, children will develop shading skills and drawing techniques to create botanical-inspired digital drawings. Other important information PE in Year 3 will be on a Monday afternoon. If children are not in the new sports uniform, please ensure they wear PE kit suitable for indoor and outdoor PE sessions. We will be covering attacking through invasion games. Forest School will be every Tuesday afternoon. Please ensure children have their forest school clothes in school so they can participate whatever the weather! Spellings will be sent home every Monday. The homework sheet should be completed throughout the week ready for a test the following Friday. The children have learnt different strategies to practice their spellings and can do this on some paper as their homework if they prefer. Thank you all for your support. Please communicate with Mrs Tyson should you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or any other issue.
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Year 4 Learning Letter Autumn 1

River Brun, Burnley.



St Mary's R.C. Primary School, Burnley

Learn and grow together in Christ.

We ask that pupils practice reading every night. Spellings will be sent home on Monday for a test on the following Friday. In year 4, we focus on times tables and ask all pupils to practice in times tables up to 12 x 12. Pupils can use times tables rockstars along with practice sheets.

Homework learning challenge.

Pupils can research about rivers and create their own project about local rivers, for example River Brun or the River Calder. This could be 2D or 3D using resources to hand at home. Maybe you could create a 3D model of a local river from recycled items.



PE will be on Fridays.
Swimming will be on Wednesdays. Ukulele will be on Thursdays.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new term! We have an exciting curriculum planned for Year 4, filled with engaging topics across all subjects. Here is an overview of what your child will be learning over the coming weeks:

- English:** Pupils will be exploring the historical and magical world of texts as they study the captivating book, *Riddles of the Runes*.
- Maths:** Our mathematical focus will be on mastering place value, ensuring children have a firm understanding of the value of digits in larger numbers.
- Science:** In our science lessons, pupils will investigate the physical world by studying the States of Matter (solids, liquids, and gases).
- Geography:** We will be taking a journey through nature as we explore the fascinating systems of Rivers and how they shape our landscape.
- Art:** Creativity will be flowing as we learn the technical skills required for drawing three-dimensional pictures, focusing on perspective and shading.
- Spanish:** In our modern foreign languages curriculum, pupils will expand their vocabulary by learning all about the seasons.
- Computing:** The children will step into the digital world by studying how networks function and connect devices.

Thank you for your continued support in your child's learning journey. If you have any questions about the curriculum, please do not hesitate to speak to the class teachers.

Warm regards,
The Year 4 Team
Mrs Collins, Mrs Francis and Mrs Topping.

Welcome to Year 5!

Welcome to Year 5! My name is Mr Tomlinson, and I am really looking forward to working with your children and supporting them throughout the year. In our class, we are also very fortunate to have Miss Rohnman and Mrs Patton, who will be working alongside us and supporting the children with their learning.

Home learning challenge

Throughout Year 5, children will be given **spellings every Thursday**, which will be practised throughout the week and **tested the following Thursday**. Children will also complete a **short times tables check every Friday** to help develop their fluency and confidence with multiplication facts.

Children will be given opportunities in class to practise both their spellings and times tables. However, spending just a few minutes practising at home regularly can have a significant impact on their confidence, fluency and progress.

There will also be small home learning challenges for pupils to complete linked to what we have been learning about in school that week. These will provide children with an opportunity to practise, apply and share their learning at home.

You could make your own Viking Boat from Cardboard including as much detail as you can.

Using the techniques, we have developed in art, create a landscape drawing or painting.

'Learn and Grow Together in Christ' Every Child, Every Chance!

Mr Tomlinson Year 5

Learning Letter

Autumn 1 2026

Mathematics

This half term, we will be focusing on place value, developing the children's understanding of numbers up to one million. Children will learn to read, write, order and compare larger numbers, as well as recognise the value of each digit. We will also be developing our skills in rounding and partitioning numbers, using a range of methods and representations to build confidence and deepen understanding. Alongside this, children will continue to practise their times tables and multiplication and division facts, helping them to develop fluency and apply these skills confidently.

English

In English this half term, the children will be studying *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis. Through this classic novel, children will explore the characters, settings and key events within the story, developing their reading comprehension and vocabulary along the way. The children will take part in a range of reading and writing activities, including opportunities to analyse the text, explore characters' thoughts and feelings, gather ideas and develop their use of descriptive language. Our main writing outcome will be to write a recount from the point of view of an eyewitness. Children will explore the features of recount writing before planning, drafting and editing their own piece, using the events and themes of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to inspire their writing.

Reading

Children will have the opportunity to participate in five 20-minute guided reading sessions a week. During these sessions, children will work on independent tasks related to comprehension or grammar of non-fiction texts. Throughout the curriculum, the children will be taught different reading strategies such as inference, skimming and scanning to aid and improve their reading ability. Additionally, it would be great if your child is able to read at home for short 10-minute sessions each week.



History

In History this half term, Year 5 will be studying the Vikings. Children will explore key aspects of Viking life and culture, developing their understanding of what life was like during this fascinating period of history. Throughout the topic, children will have opportunities to discuss and debate significant aspects of Viking life and culture, using historical evidence to develop and support their ideas. They will consider different viewpoints, ask historically relevant questions and analyse a range of sources. Children will also explore and analyse the legacy of the Vikings, considering the impact they had on Britain and how their influence can still be seen today.

Science

In Science this half term, children will be studying Properties of Materials. They will explore and compare a range of everyday materials, considering their different properties and how these make them suitable for particular purposes. Children will investigate properties such as hardness, transparency, conductivity and solubility, carrying out practical investigations to develop their scientific enquiry skills. They will also explore reversible and irreversible changes, including dissolving, separating mixtures and changes that result in new materials being formed.

Art

In Art this half term, children will focus on drawing, exploring how artists can create a sense of depth and movement within their work. Children will study the work of **Charlie Mackesy**, looking closely at how he uses simple yet expressive drawings to communicate movement, feelings and emotions. They will have opportunities to experiment with different drawing techniques before applying these skills to create their own expressive artwork.

Other important information

PE in Year 5 is on a **Tuesday and Friday (Forrest School)**. Please make sure you always have the correct kit for indoor and outdoor PE.

Please communicate with school or myself should you have any questions or concerns.

Mr Tomlinson

In addition to reading, SATs Companion and spelling work, it would be lovely if you could try some more creative activities at home.

You will see below a few ideas for possible activities to complete at home relating to our current work. You can draw pictures, write sentences, create a PowerPoint or even take photographs.




St. Mary's R.C. Primary School
Learn and Grow Together in Christ



Year 6
Mrs Blezard & Mrs Stalton
Learning Letter Autumn 1 2026

Mathematics

This half term, we will study areas within place value, addition and subtraction. It is very important that children know all the multiplication facts and associated division facts as we move into areas of study requiring these facts. The children will be given support at school but help at home via the Times Tables Rockstars would be very much appreciated, as well as using SATs companion to support additional areas of work.

English

This half term we will study the wonderful novel 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' by L. Frank Baum in guided reading, as well as *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan in English lessons. The children will use different grammar skills throughout the unit and, for a final piece of writing, Children will continue to practise Year 6 statutory spellings within the unit and your support in assisting your child to learn these spellings is very much appreciated.

Reading

Children will participate in four 20-minute whole class guided reading sessions a week, learning different reading strategies such as inference, skimming and scanning to aid and improve their reading comprehension.

Suggested reading for Year 6:

We encourage you to explore other texts, the following are especially recommended:

The Boy in Striped Pyjamas – John Boyne
The Lost Whale – Hannah Gold
Rooftoppers – Katherine Rundell
The Shark Caller – Zillah Bethell
Two is a Crowd – Cath Howe



Religious Education

In Religious studies this term, children will look closely at:

- Creation – Garden of Eden and the Fall.

Science

This half term, we will be looking at Electricity. Through this unit the class will use recognised symbols (cells, wires, switches, bulbs, buzzers and motors) when representing a simple circuit in a diagram. They will also associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit.

Geography

We will look at what makes up the United Kingdom. We will name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics. This will be done using online tools and atlases.

Other important information:

- PE in Year 6 is on Wednesday and Friday.
- Please ensure your child wears their PE kit in school on PE days.
- Please can you make sure your child's belongings, including their uniform, are clearly marked with their name.
- Try and read with your child as often as possible and record in their log.

Thank you all for your support. Please communicate with school should you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or any other issue.

Mrs Blezard & Mrs Stalton

At The National College, our [WakeUpWednesday](#) guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, tips and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](#).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-generated characters. These characters can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personality engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than being based on a fixed script. Some users report that conversations can still involve sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm content. These AI-generated replies should be seen as a reminder that AI is not a replacement for human support and that any inappropriate content should be reported to the platform.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever leaving the boundaries of the platform. This can lead to users feeling a sense of connection and empathy that may not be realistic. It is important to remember that AI is not a person and cannot truly understand or care for anyone.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are not designed to give advice. They are designed to be entertaining and engaging. They are not a replacement for professional advice or support. If you need advice, please seek it from a trusted adult or professional.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI characters can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the reasons why the platform is so popular. However, this can lead to users becoming emotionally dependent on the characters. This can be harmful to their mental health and relationships with real people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI characters may feel private, especially when they are designed to be romantic partners. However, they are not private. All conversations are logged and used to improve the platform. It is important to be aware of this and to use the platform responsibly.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Because of the way the platform is designed, it can be addictive. Users may find themselves spending more time on the platform than they intended to. This can lead to a loss of interest in real life and can be harmful to their mental health.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask about the things your child is doing on Character.AI and make them feel safe to talk to you about it. If you have any concerns, please talk to your child about them. If you are worried about your child's mental health, please seek professional advice.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Take a pause from the platform and check the content of the characters. If you are worried about your child's mental health, please seek professional advice. If you are worried about your child's relationships, please talk to them about it.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI is a platform for users aged 16 and over. It is not designed for children. If you are a parent or educator, please ensure that your child is not using the platform. If you are a user, please ensure that you are using the platform responsibly.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take notice of the things your child is doing on Character.AI and respond to them. If you are worried about your child's mental health, please seek professional advice. If you are worried about your child's relationships, please talk to them about it.

Meet Our Expert

James Smith is an educator with almost 20 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting teachers and leaders in schools and universities across the world. (James' GCSE course is a huge success!)

[WakeUpWednesday](#) The National College

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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: 01.08.2020

IS IT REAL?

STAYING ALERT IN AN AGE OF DISINFORMATION

We are exposed to large amounts of information every day; online, on social media, in group chats, and through word of mouth. Not all of it is accurate...

False or misleading information can spread quickly and influence opinions, behaviour, and trust.

TIK TIK TIK



Understanding the difference between misinformation, disinformation, and misrepresentation and knowing how to respond helps individuals, communities, and organisations make informed decisions and prevent harm.

Burnley.gov.uk



2 - This free #WakeUpWednesday guide explains the basics of allergies and anaphylaxis, potentially life-threatening reactions that educators, carers, and parents alike should be able to recognise and respond to quickly.

Please find below some information on how to help keep children safe on social media and some guidance on how to set parental restrictions on devices and accounts.

Social Media

Facebook (13+)

Included in Facebook's settings are the ability to set who can see your posts, who can contact you and the ability to review all posts before appearing on your timeline.

Unfriend: go to their profile, click on the three dots, click on Following and tap Unfollow.

Blocking: go to their profile, click on the three dots and select Block.

Facebook Privacy Check up: this tool helps you review your settings: <https://www.facebook.com/help/1297502253597210>

You can also set up Family Centre (supervision) on Messenger: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/help/messenger-app/182587384506653>

Instagram (13+)

When you set up your account, it is automatically set as public (except if you are under 18 and it is set to private as default, although you can change it to public).

Remove a follower: Go to their profile and tap 'Following' and select Unfollow.

Blocking/Reporting: To do this, tap their username, tap on the 3 dots in the top right and select Block or Report.

Turn off commenting on a post: Tap the 3 dots above your post and select Turn Off Commenting.

Find out more here: <https://help.instagram.com/196883487377501>

You can also set up Family Centre (supervision) to give you access to tools such as see who your child follows and screen time: <https://help.instagram.com/4548867563184597>

WhatsApp (13+)

By default, WhatsApp sets your privacy settings to allow any WhatsApp user to see your read receipts, last seen, about and profile photo. To change any of these settings, go to Settings and then select Privacy.

Blocking/Reporting: You can block and report a user by clicking on their name and selecting Block or Report. You can report any issues direct to WhatsApp within the app by going to Settings, Help, Help Center and Contact Us.

Find out more here: https://faq.whatsapp.com/1313491802751163?locale=en_US



TikTok (13+)

You can choose to have a public or private account. If you set your account to private, then only those you accept as friends can see your videos. To do this, go to your profile, tap the 3 line icon, tap Settings and Privacy, go to Privacy and turn on Private account (by default accounts for people under 16 are set to private).

Report inappropriate content: you can report an account, video, comment and message. Follow the instructions here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety/bc/report-a-problem>

Family Pairing

You can use Family Pairing to link your own TikTok account to your child's account. This will give you access to additional controls such as:

- **Screen Time Management:** Control how long your child can spend on TikTok.
- **Direct Messages:** Limit who can send messages to them or turn off direct messaging completely. *Direct messaging is automatically disabled for registered accounts between the ages of 13 and 15.*
- **Restricted Mode:** Restrict the appearance of inappropriate content.
- **Search:** Option to disable.

Find out more here: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>



X (13+)

When you set up your X account, you can choose whether you would like to keep your tweets public or protected (private). To check, go to Settings and Privacy, select Privacy and Safety and then Audience and tagging and ensure Protect your posts is selected.

Unfollow somebody: Go to their profile, click on 'Following' to then select 'unfollow'.

Blocking/Report: Go to their profile, click the three dots and select block or report.

Location: To keep your location private (so followers can't see the location you are tweeting from), under Settings and Privacy, select Privacy and Safety, select Location Information and ensure Precise location is disabled.

Find out more here: <https://help.x.com/en/safety-and-security/x-privacy-settings>



Snapchat (13+)

When you set up your account, it is automatically set so only friends you've added can contact you or view your story.

Unfriend: Go to the chat screen, tap and hold on a friend's name, tap 'Manage Friendship' and then tap 'Remove Friend'.

Block a friend: Go to the chat screen, tap and hold on a friend's name, tap 'Manage Friendship' and then tap 'Block'.

Location settings: This feature allows your friends to see where you are (including when you are at home) when you have the app open. **It is so important that you check your child's settings for this feature.** Your location won't be shared on the map until you open it for the first time, at which point you can choose (please note that snaps you submit to Snap Map can still show up on the Map, no matter what location setting you choose):

- **Ghost Mode (Only Me):** your location won't be visible to anyone else.
- **My Friends:** your location will be shared with all of your friends.
- **Select Friends, Except ...:** your location will be shared with your friends, except the friends on this list.
- **Only These Friends ...:** choose specific friends to share your location with.

Who Can Contact Me: in your privacy settings you can choose who can contact you directly with Snaps, Chats, calls, etc. Remember, if you're in a group, then anyone can communicate with you in that Group Chat regardless of your settings. Find out more here: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074560-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

Family Centre: this can be set up to provide parental control settings such as limit your child's ability to view certain content in the Stories and Spotlight tabs. Find out more here: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7121384944788-What-is-Family-Centre>

Mobile devices

You can set up free parental controls and restrictions on most mobile devices, which can limit what your child can access.

iOS



Using Content & Privacy Restrictions in Screen Time, you can block or limit specific apps and features on your child's device. Find out more here: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Apple have also created this support page for families: <https://www.apple.com/uk/families/>

Android



When you turn on parental controls, you can restrict what content can be downloaded or purchased from Google Play based on maturity level.

Find out more here: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/10757387#en-GB>

You can also set up Family Link, which lets you set digital ground rules as well as see where they are, receive notifications when they arrive or leave a certain location and set screen time limits. You will need to download Family Link onto your own device first and then link your child's account to it.

Find out more here: <https://families.google/familylink/>