



Dear Parents/Carers, students and staff,

Welcome to this week's newsletter! Read on to find out about all the exciting things that have been happening this week!

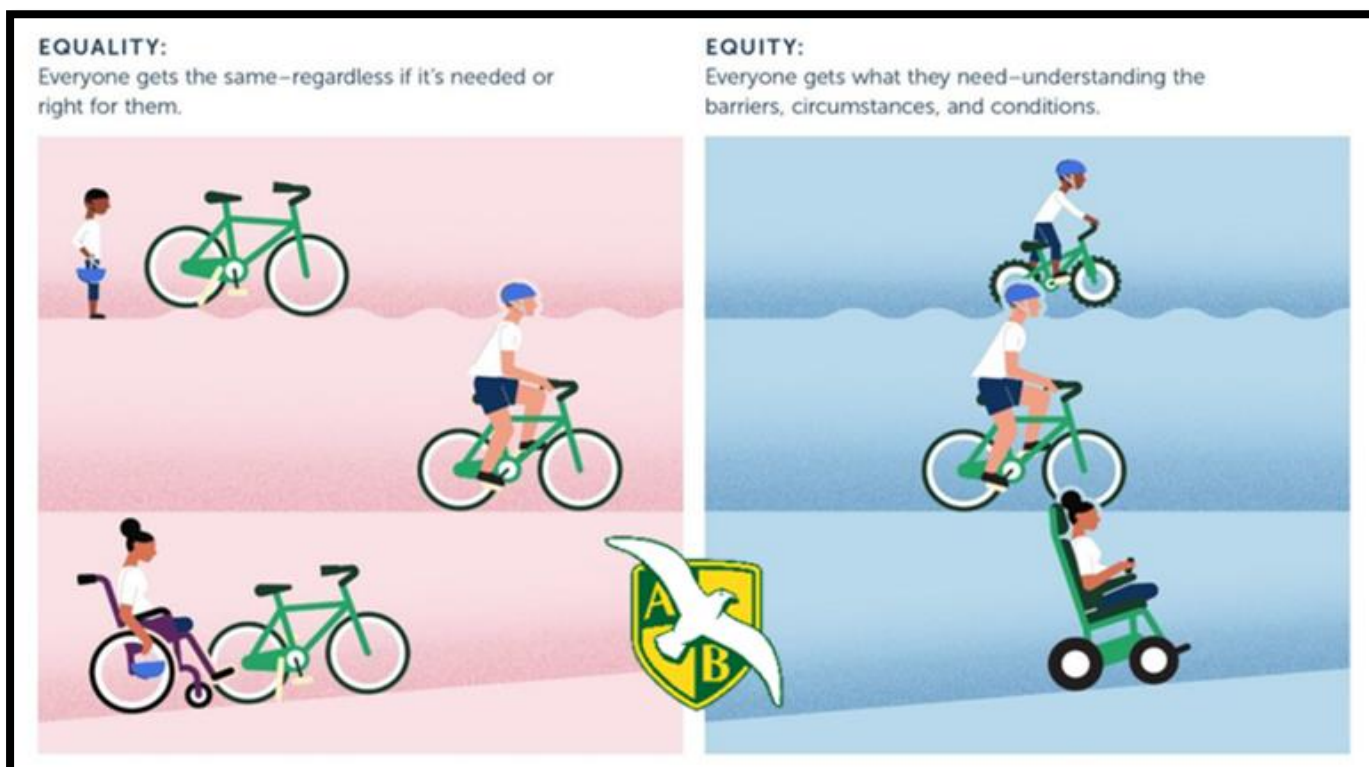
### **This Week's Assemblies: 'Equity and Equality':**

This week, our assemblies focused on our core values of equity and equality. The children explored the important distinction between the two, discussing how equity involves giving people the tools they need to succeed based on their individual circumstances, while equality

means providing everyone with the same opportunities or resources, regardless of their unique needs.

The students participated in engaging discussions, which helped them understand how these values play a vital role in creating a fair and supportive school environment. Some examples shared during the assembly included adjusting classroom resources to help all learners succeed and ensuring everyone feels valued and included.

We encourage families to continue this conversation at home! Ask your child/ren about the differences between equity and equality—what examples can they share? How do they think fairness applies in their daily lives?



**PTA Christmas Fete 2024 – TODAY!** The PTA Christmas Fete 2024 is happening tonight, from 3:15 PM to 6:00 PM. Please stagger your arrival times to help manage crowds. Parking on-site is strictly for disabled members of our community or those with prearranged agreements. For full details, please refer to the letter sent out on Thursday, 28th November via SchoolComms. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you there!

## ABP Sports Update - From Mr. Heard:



**Year 3 and 4 Cross Country:** A big congratulations to our Year 3 and 4 cross country runners, who performed brilliantly and represented the school with pride! Our best-performing team was the Year 3 boys, who placed 6th out of 23 schools. All four boys finished in the top 45 out of more than 130 runners, with a standout performance from Jonty, who secured an impressive 9th place finish.

It was a fantastic event, and we look forward to participating next year. A special thank you goes out to the parents who volunteered their time and support on the day—you helped make it a memorable experience for everyone involved.

**Boys Football:** Our A team had two exciting derby fixtures in the Eastern League this week.

- **Match vs. Abbots Hall** - The boys played a thrilling match, earning a hard-fought 2-2 draw. Despite hitting the woodwork twice, they showcased determination and resilience. A special mention goes to Theo for his “Maradona-inspired” goals and for being named Player of the Match.



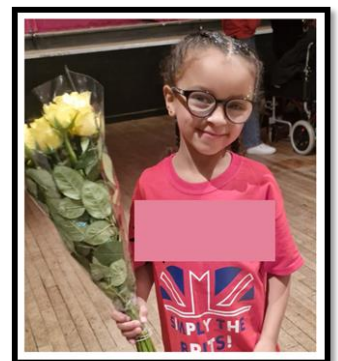
- **Match vs. Graham James** - On Thursday, the team took on Graham James, starting strong with an early goal. However, scoring first proved to be our Achilles heel as the game ended in a 4-2 defeat. Reggie’s stunning free kick was a highlight, and Robbie’s Player of the Match performance exemplified the team’s never-give-up attitude.

**Congratulations – Out of school achievements!** A huge round of applause to our students for their remarkable accomplishments outside of school this past week. You continue to make us proud with your dedication, talent, and hard work!



- **Ella-Mae:** A big well done to Ella-Mae for achieving a dance award! She proudly brought in her wonderful trophy to share with the class, and we couldn’t be happier for her success. Fantastic work, Ella-Mae!

- **Freya-Leigh:** A special shoutout to Freya-Leigh, who participated in her very first dance show on a big stage! She was absolutely thrilled with her achievement, and we are so proud of her for this amazing milestone. Keep shining, Freya-Leigh!



If you would like your child’s accomplishments outside of school celebrated in our newsletter, please email us at [admin.abp@osborne.coop](mailto:admin.abp@osborne.coop), and we’ll do our best to include them in future editions. Keep reaching for the stars! ☆

**Safeguarding: Internet Safety:** Chosen by our Computing Lead - Mrs. Smith



This week's focus is Snapchat! The following article, sourced from The National College, provides valuable information to support parents and carers in keeping their children safe while using this popular platform. Stay informed and help your child navigate the digital world safely!

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

**SNAP STREAK**  
97  
DAYS

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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

### SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

### PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

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

### MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

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

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

## **Community Readers Needed!**

Do you have some spare time and a passion for supporting young readers? We're looking to grow our team of parent/carer in-school reading buddies!

If you're interested in helping children develop their love of reading, please get in touch with the school office at [admin.abp@osborne.coop](mailto:admin.abp@osborne.coop).

Before starting, volunteers will need to complete a DBS check and attend an induction, as safeguarding our children and community is our top priority.

Thank you in advance for your time and dedication to supporting our young readers!



## **Attendance Matters!**

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

As we approach the festive season, we understand that the holiday spirit brings exciting events and celebrations. However, we want to remind everyone that consistent school attendance is more important than ever during this time of year.

It is common for attendance to dip as children take days off for Christmas events or travel, but every day of learning counts. A day missed is a day of learning lost, and gaps in education can be hard to fill later.

We are proud to report that our school continues to maintain above-national attendance levels, and we encourage all families to help keep this momentum going! Let's ensure that our students continue to make the most of their education right up to the holidays.

Thank you for your continued support in prioritising attendance!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr R Turner  
Headteacher