

STAPLES ROAD PRIMARY

May 2026



May at Staples Road Primary School

May was an incredibly action-packed month at Staples Road Primary School! We saw fantastic determination during our school Mini Marathon and celebrated our 'Respect Champions' who had been nominated by adults throughout the school for going above and beyond in terms of respectful behaviour. In our classes, Reception had a wonderful time dressing up as helpful community heroes, Year 1 began growing their own beans for their Jack and the Beanstalk topic, and Year 2 enjoyed a thrillingly creepy-crawly visit from the Eden Oasis 'Bug Man'.

Our lower Key Stage 2 students have been diving into brilliant, hands-on learning. Year 3 investigated the human skeleton in Science by building protective 'skulls' for an egg, and they practiced using measurement scales during a fun maths cooking session. Meanwhile, Year 4 explored local heritage with an insightful visit to St Mary's Church and expanded their horizons globally by writing letters to their new penpals in China. These were hand delivered by our teachers who visited Beijing during half-term to teach and enjoy a range of cultural experiences.

Finally, our upper years reached new heights this month. Year 5 showed incredible bravery and teamwork during their adventurous Residential trip, tackling bushcraft, climbing, high ropes, rafting, farm visits, archery, and orienteering. Year 6 also made us immensely proud with their focused attitude during SATS week—powering through their exams with the help of our energy-boosting SATS breakfasts—before creating detailed maps to retell the story of the ancient Egyptian civilisation. What a brilliant month!

Y5 at Lambourne End



Y6 SATS Breakfast



Sibling Respect Champions!



Respect Champions



Mini Marathon



Teachers Visiting China



Writing Letters to China



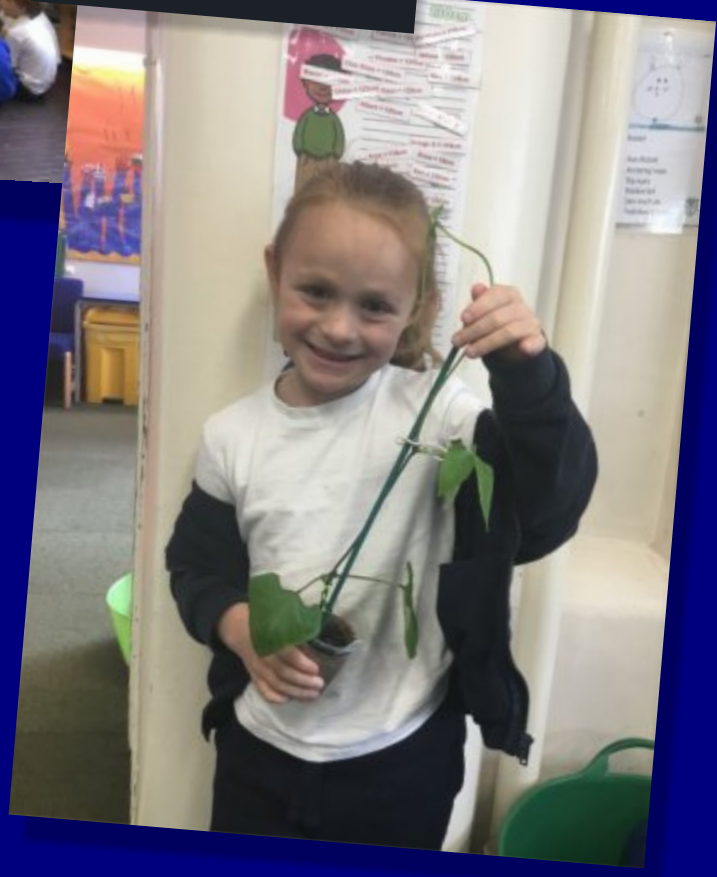
Y6 Maps



Bug Man



Growing Beans



Y3 Science



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.



SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🍌 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.



SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.



SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.



ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat 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.



Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.



ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. 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.



BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.



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.



The National College