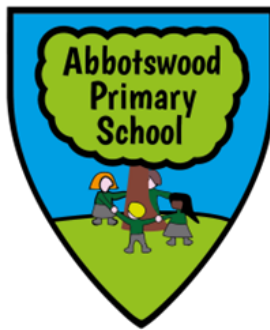


# Newsletter

19th September 2025

Term 1 - Responsibility

parents@abbotswoodprimary.org.uk



Aim High, Believe and Achieve

## OUR VALUES

Responsibility  
Empathy  
Sense Of Pride  
Perseverance  
Enthusiasm  
Curiosity  
Teamwork

### Headteacher's Message

What a lovely week it has been in school! The children have shown such fantastic respect and behaviour, and it's been wonderful to see how kindly they are treating one another. Classes are really enjoying getting started with their new enquiries, and there's such a buzz of excitement about learning all around the school. Our new Reception children have settled in brilliantly, and we are so proud of how confidently they've begun their school journey.

A big thank you to all the parents who joined us for the Meet the Teacher sessions last week. We really value the time you take to engage with your child's learning and to work in partnership with us. Please do look out for more opportunities to come into school and be part of events throughout the year—we love welcoming you into our community.

### House Captains

This week, our Team Captains started their new roles. Each child chosen to be a captain has consistently demonstrated all of our school values and is a role model in our school. We look forward to their contributions and are immensely proud of each one of them.

#### Stanshawes

Matty and Izzy

#### Newman

Ivy and Archie S

#### Poole Court

Kiki and Hayden

#### Parnall

Will and Robyn

### School Photos - Friday 3rd October 2025

The photographer will be visiting us on Friday 3rd October to take individual and sibling photos. If you would like your pre-school children/babies to have their photos taken with their siblings please queue by the After School Club door for 8.30am, Siblings that attend Abbotswood will have their photos taken during the morning so please do not queue for them. All children need to wear **full uniform** even if it is a PE day. PE kits will need to be sent into school so that they can change later.

### INSET DAYS AND TERM DATES 2025 - 2026

Monday 20th October 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

**Friday 10th July 2026 - THIS IS  
A NEW DATE IN PLACE OF THE  
APRIL DATE PREVIOUSLY SENT  
OUT**

Monday 20th July 2026

Tuesday 21st July 2026

'Aim High, Believe & Achieve'



# Abbotswood Primary School

Is your child starting school in  
September 2026?

Come and see our 'welcoming and nurturing school' in action. We have open days throughout October, November & December. Call or email to book a place for you and your child.



01454 867777



[admin@abbotswoodprimary.org.uk](mailto:admin@abbotswoodprimary.org.uk)



Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Good
Early years provision	Good

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

# 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.

## 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.

### 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'.

### 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-judgmentally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

### 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.09.2025

## Learner of the Week and Respect Award

Hedgehogs - Reggie K and Darcie

Squirrels - Lucy P and Lucy B

Foxes - Liam and Emilia R

Badgers - April and Arlo

Rabbits - Shakira and Edie

Robins - Max and Matilda

Deer - Toby and Chinmay

Bats - Coby and Etta

Woodpeckers - Isla F and Archie

Otters - Dennis and Rosie

Kingfishers - Anesu and Mia

Falcons - Poppy and Cody

## Attendance

**TARGET**

**96%**

**LAST WEEK**

**95.7%**

**THIS WEEK**

**95.2%**

Attendance Ladder



## Help Us Grow Our Year 2 Garden!

Year 2 are busy turning our garden into a brilliant place for growing, playing and reading – but we need a little help!

We are looking for some bits and bobs you might have at home that we could use.

### For Our Garden:

- Seeds (flowers, veggies or herbs)
- Plant pots or trays
- Gardening gloves (child or adult sizes)
- Compost or soil
- Spare plants or seedlings

### For Our Mud Kitchen:

- Old pots, pans, spoons or jugs
- Baking trays, bowls or muffin tins
- Buckets and watering cans
- Safe bits of wood or planks
- Aprons or old shirts for messy play

### For Our Reading Shed:

- Children's books in good condition
- Cushions, beanbags or rugs
- Fairy lights or little lamps (battery-powered)
- Plastic boxes to keep books safe

If you can donate anything, please bring it to the school office.

Thank you.

## Dates for your Diary

### 2025

Friday 3rd October 2025 - School photographer (individual photos)

Monday 20th October 2025 - INSET

Thursday 23rd October 2025 - Year 4 Science Fair - details to follow

Thursday 23rd October 2025 - Flu immunisations

Tuesday 11th November 2025 - Parents Evening

Wednesday 12th November 2025 - Parents Evening

Tuesday 9th December 2025 - Reception Nativity (Time to be confirmed)

Tuesday 9th December 2025 - School Choir performing at Yate Shopping Centre

Wednesday 10th December 2025 - Reception Nativity (Time to be confirmed)

Monday 15th December 2025 - KS1 Nativity (Time to be confirmed)

Tuesday 16th December 2025 - KS1 Nativity (Time to be confirmed)

Wednesday 17th December 2025 - Christmas Dinner

### 2026

Monday 5th January 2026 - INSET

Tuesday 17th March 2026 - Parents Evening

Wednesday 18th March 2026 - Parents Evening

Wednesday 10th June 2026 - Sports Day (Times to be confirmed)

Monday 15th June 2026 - Friday 19th June 2026 - Year 6 camp to Morfa Bay

Monday 22nd June 2026 - Friday 26th June 2026 - Year 5 swimming

Monday 29th June 2026 - Friday 3rd July 2026 - Year 5 swimming

Wednesday 1st July 2026 - Year 6 Transition to Brimsham Green

Thursday 2nd July 2026 - Year 6 Transition to Brimsham Green

Friday 10th July 2025 - INSET - **THIS IS A CHANGE TO THE ONE SENT OUT PREVIOUSLY**

Tuesday 14th July 2026 - Year 6 Play (Time to be confirmed)

Wednesday 15th July 2026 - Year 6 Play (Time to be confirmed)

Thursday 16th July 2026 - Year 6 Party (details to follow)

Friday 17th July 2026 - Year 6 Leavers Assembly (details to follow)

Monday 20th July 2026 - INSET

Tuesday 21st July 2026 - INSET