



## **NEWSLETTER**

**29th November 2024**

**In this week's edition!**

**Principal's Message**

**Headteacher Awards**

**Curriculum**

**School Games**

**Attendance**

**Royal British Legion**

**Media Group**

**Snapchat**

**New Governor Needed**

**Important Dates for Summer Term**

**Community Notices**

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# Principal's Message

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December is right around the corner - we seemed to have happily (for most adults, maybe not the children!) avoided the snow that has settled in other parts of the UK. We can be thankful to have also avoided the floods too. We have seen the devastation that it can cause in Spain recently. Three more weeks of school until the Christmas break, with much to look forward to.

Many of our children absorbed the winter flu immunisation on Monday, the nasal version is probably more preferable for the children than an injection! Here's to a healthy winter period, although attendance suggests otherwise in the last 2-3 weeks.

Well done to Class Neptune for their assembly - more in the curriculum section and congratulations to the Y5/6 football team too - more in the school games section. They did themselves and the school proud.

Assembly themes in the last two weeks have covered honesty and perseverance. We shared a book about a child who damaged a car with a bicycle and struggled to 'own up', but eventually realised you generate more respect with honesty. For perseverance, we had fun trying to get a metal paper clip to float on water (it does!) and watched Derek Redmond in the Barcelona Olympics where a muscle strain spoiled his dream but led to a standing ovation from the spectators. 'Finish what you start'.



I have been meeting with class teachers this week for progress meetings to discuss academic development for every child in every class. 8 classes this week and 3 more next week. It is great to hear how the children are progressing. Reading and maths attainment is outperforming writing across the school, hence it being a key school target. Please support children with this - completing homework, writing notes, thank-you cards, diary entries etc. Perhaps get children to earn their 'screen' time by showing you some of their writing skills first.

A reminder that the weather is full winter now so please remember coats everyday for your children.

Have a super weekend.

Mr Burden

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# Headteacher Award

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22nd November 2024



29th November 2024



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# Curriculum

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Thanks to Class Neptune for a super class assembly yesterday - what a very interesting topic they shared - 'Why people live near a volcano'. They covered English, maths, geography, PSHE, art, DT and science during their explanations - super loud voices throughout the assembly. The descriptive vocabulary in the Fritch Volcano newspaper reports were brilliant - well done to all the pupils and thanks to families for supporting the children on the day.

Our reception classes enjoyed their teddy bear run last Friday, showing lots of energy and enthusiasm. Thanks to Nick from the USSP for running the session.

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# Royal British Legion

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Thank you all for your support with the Poppy Appeal this year.

We managed to raise £279 for the Royal British Legion.



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# School Games

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Pride of place to the Y5/6 football team.

It was a brilliant achievement to qualify for the Essex Finals after winning the Uttlesford area tournament. They were invited to play other Essex districts at Billericay Football Club on Tuesday. There were 18 teams in the competition. We were in a group of 4 teams.

## **Game 1 - FGA 1-0 Churchfields**

Josh D scored our winner with a very well controlled volley from a throw in. We played some excellent football, passing out from the back and looked comfortable in defense.

## **Game 2 FGA 1-0 Leigh North Street**

Again we looked assured in defense and midway through the game we were awarded a free kick on the right side about 15m from goal. Teddy N, hit an absolute beauty into the top corner.

This set up game 3, with a semi final place on the line. We had watched Brentwood Prep beat both teams in our group by an aggregate of 10-0. They were very talented and well drilled.

## **Game 3 - FGA 1-2 Brentwood Prep**

The game was fast and skillful. We played with superb determination and gave them no space at all. After winning the ball in midfield Rory found himself through on goal, he battled with the last defender and bravely managed to squeeze the ball past the on rushing goalkeeper who clattered onto Rory. 1-0. You could sense panic from the opposition as they probably expected to walk into the semi finals. It took a moment of brilliance to equalise. A foul on half-way was taken by their most dominant player. He hit a laser guided free kick into the roof of the net for 1-1. A draw was not enough for us due to goal difference. As we pushed for a winner Brentwood caught us on the break to score a late winner.

Brentwood proceeded to win their semi final and advance to the final where they lost 1-0 to Sunnymeade who will now represent Essex in the next phase (regionals).

So we played competitively with one of the top teams there.

Well done to all the players and thanks to staff and parents for cheering them on.







# Attendance

Whole school attendance stands at 95.04% dropping from 95.29% in the last newsletter.  
Updates for class winners and 98%+:






Week	Class	% Attendance	98% +
Week 10 18/11/24 - 22/11/24 (5 days)	Class Sun	97.69	None
Week 11 25/11/24 - 29/11/25 (5 days)	Class Sun	97.31	None

A gentle reminder that the gate closes at 08:40 in the morning. If you arrive after this time you must enter through the school office and sign your child in.



**Essex County Council Education**

## GOOD TIMEKEEPING

- What to do the night before:**
- Get everything you need for school ready 
  - Set your alarm allowing plenty of time 
  - Make your lunch and drink if you bring a packed lunch to school 
  - Turn off devices half an hour before bedtime 
  - Have a good night's sleep - a minimum of eight hours! 



**Five minutes late per day soon adds up to three days of lost school time**

For mental health support for young people visit: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)



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# Media Group

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Report by Charles H

- A football tournament has recently been held in Billericay
- A Multi sports event has been conducted and Fritch Green Academy came 3rd.
- Pantomime next week on Friday for KS2!
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## Multisports event interview with Ronnie J:

Q. What did you do there?

A . Sports like football, basketball, bowling, ballgames and tennis.

Q. What place did you come?

A. 3rd. As a prize we got a bronze medal.

Q. Did you enjoy it?

A. Yeah, I enjoyed it.



# Snapchat

Please read the poster below to find out how you can keep your child safe when using Snapchat.

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. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

**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'.

**SNAP STREAK 97 DAYS**

### 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 'beauty' 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.

### 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-2021>

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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: 27.11.2024

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# New Governor Required

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We are always seeking new and enthusiastic Governors. We have one place to fill and this can either be a parent or community role - so please do share with friends and family.

As an Academy, we strive to provide our pupils with a stimulating environment to learn key skills, acquire knowledge and to appreciate the world they live in, so that all of our children become 'Learners for Life'. Our children learn from an innovative, experienced based and creative curriculum.

We need someone specifically who can offer us some key skills and become members of our Governing Body. If you are **an individual with specific accountancy, financial and strategic business direction** this would certainly be desirable.

If you are interested in investing some time into our Academy and joining our Governing Body, then I would very much like to invite you to contact us and find out more about the role. Please email me at [katie.bailey@flitchgreen.net](mailto:katie.bailey@flitchgreen.net). I very much look forward to hearing from you.



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# Important Dates for Autumn Term

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Key dates for the whole academic year can be found on the [website](#).  
Please check back regularly, as these dates can be subject to change.

Earth Class Assembly - 3rd December (9:00)

Key Stage 2 Panto Trip - 6th December

Reception & Key Stage 1 Polar Express Day - 6th December

Reception Nativity - 11th December (AM)

Reception Nativity - 12th December (PM)

KS1 Christmas Concert - 17th December (9:00)

KS2 Christmas Concert - 17th December (13:45)

FFG Wear Something Christmassy Day - 18th December

Whole School Christmas Lunch - 18th December

FFG Christmas Disco - 18th December (15:45-16:45 EYFS & 17:00-18:00 Lower KS2)

FFG Christmas Disco - 19th December (15:45-16:45 KS1 & 17:00-18:00 Upper KS2)

Finish for Christmas - 20th December (13:00)

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# Community Notices

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**Please remember to check the 'Community' tab of our website regularly, as we upload community groups and events that we hope you may be interested in.**

[www.theflitchgreenacademy.co.uk](http://www.theflitchgreenacademy.co.uk)

This week you can find information on:

Fritch United Football Club

Fritch Green Community Hall

POP Essex SEND Clubs and Respite

Rock Steady Music Lessons

MRFA Christmas Camps

SCS Christmas Camps

Salad Days Magazine and Kizaround Magazine