



Friday Post

Friday 19th September 2025

Our School Value: Thankfulness

Key Verse: *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one that this; to lay down ones life for one's friends. John 15:12-13*

It has been another exciting week at St Leonard's with so many memorable moments to be proud of. It has been a joy to see and hear all of the curiosity, kindness and creativity which we rejoiced in celebration worship today.

This week, I've had the pleasure of teaching Hedgehogs and Owls. I have loved getting to know your children and their beautiful personalities and qualities. A highlight was joining in with 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' painting as this is one of my favourite books which I used to read to my own children every night (I still know the words off by heart!). I have also enjoyed spending time outside with the children at playtime and seeing how their friendships are flourishing. You should be so very proud of your children and how they shine and support each other every day.

In line with our British Values, the children have been voting for several leadership opportunities including School Council, Worship Council and Team Captain roles. Well done to everyone who put themselves forward and supporting our new leaders.

We would also like to thank art club and the wonderful Mrs Trumble who have been making 'Thank You' cards for all staff in school. This links superbly with our focus on our Christian value of 'thankfulness.' In daily worship, we have also been exploring the Creation Story and talking about everything in our world which we are thankful for. As a school, we are also developing our spirituality and ability to reflect through our 'Stilling' techniques; hopefully the children will be able to teach you when they become more confident with the calming and meditative approach.

From the Friday posts and the creative ideas which are being introduced at St. Leonard's, you will be seeing how much I love my role as Headteacher and enriching every child's education in hand with our Christian Distinctiveness. Through every second of every day, I am determined to ensure that everyone within our whole school family excels and achieves more than they ever dreamed possible...with love, laughter, wonder and beauty echoing through every classroom, every corridor and every playground. I am passionate about embedding excellence and driving improvement through every breath of our school life. We have such an exciting journey ahead...

Wishing everyone a fun filled weekend, Mrs Keay

Headteacher: Mrs C Keay
St Leonard's First School & Nursery,
School Lane, Dunston, ST18 9AG
Tel: 01785 712488

 **Staffordshire
University
Academies
Trust**

'Get hooked in a Book' launch!

Today, I shared our 'Get hooked in a Book' launch to inspire everyone within our school community to foster a deep love of reading. Children will bring home a reading rocket to colour in as they read books. For every 20 books read, the children receive a prize to celebrate their incredible reading journey.

Rocket 1	20 reads	Book mark
Rocket 2	40 reads	Pencil
Rocket 3	60 reads	Eraser
Rocket 4	80 reads	Book
Rocket 5	100 reads	Reading themed special event with Mrs Keay

Each Friday, teachers will also be choosing children to take home one of our new 'Book Snuggle Baskets.' These are for you and your family to enjoy before bed time each day during the week.

They will include books; a soft toy to read to; hot chocolate and mini-marshmallows as well as pencils and a note book. You can use these to write notes about the book, draw pictures, write stories, poems etc. You could even add some photographs which capture your 'book snuggle' times at home. Most importantly it is about finding treasured time to read together.

Nursery - Nursery Rhyme basket

Reception and Y1 - Picture Book Basket

Year 2 - Poetry Basket

Years 3 - Fiction Basket

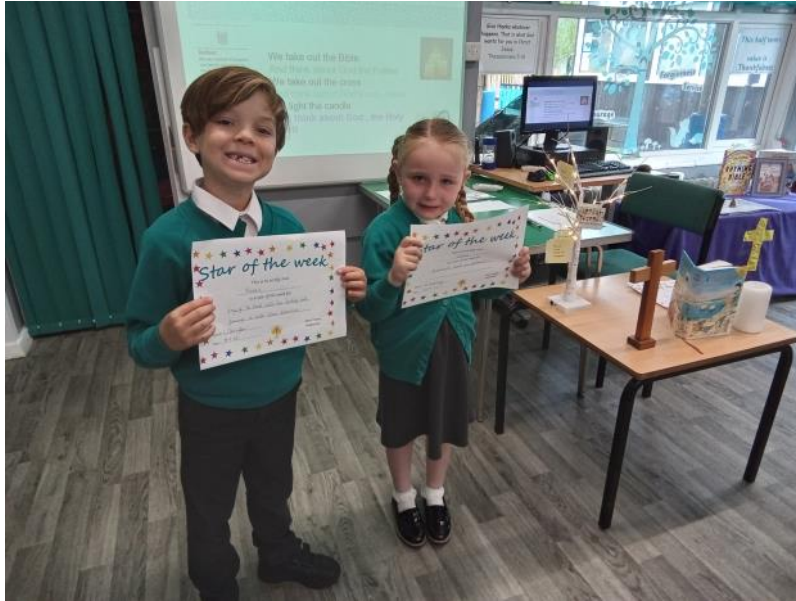
Y4 - Knowledge basket



We look forward to sending out our first 'Book Snuggle Baskets' next week...

Mrs Keay

Stars of the Week



Care, Love and Kindness Award



Let all that you do, be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14



Next week we are learning our school hymn

'Thank You Lord'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njsdfxK9FcQ>

Click the link above to find the lyrics & music

Dear God

Thank you for our world
For the day and night; the oceans
and land; people and animals.

Thank you for the care, love and
kindness you have given us.

Help us to show our thanks and to
look after our world, our
community, our school, our families.
Help us to show thanks and respect
to others

Let care, love and kindness shine
through always.

Amen

Weekly House Point Tally

Oak



102

Holly

90

Sycamore

76



Order forms were sent home last week for school photos. Orders can be made on line or you can hand in your order form & money to the school office no later than Monday morning.



Our Safeguarding Team

Mrs Keay is our Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss Laing is our Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Should you hear or see something that concerns you,
please contact the office to speak to either of them.



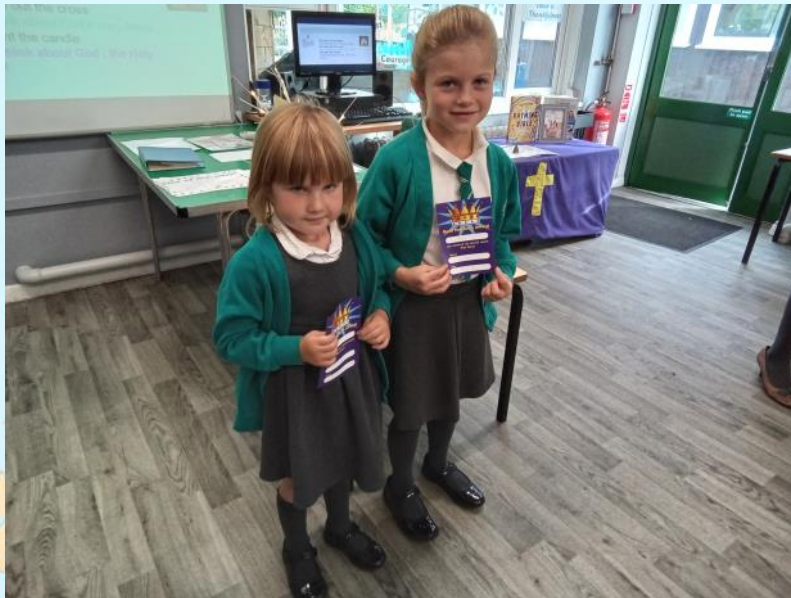
Morning Club will be available every morning from 8am for children in Rec-Y4.
Just turn up **no need to book.**



Ark after school care will be available from every day from 3:10pm until 5pm for children in Rec-Y4 and until 4pm for children in Nursery.

These sessions **MUST** be pre-booked a month in advance, please make sure you send in your booking form to Mrs Briganti. Thank you

Headteacher Award



PE STARS OF THE WEEK



Clubs & Ark

Payments for after school clubs and for The Ark are now overdue, please pay via your ParentPay accounts asap. Thank you



Label everything!!

Please can we ask that you label everything that comes to school!! We are having a lot of jumpers & cardigans left around school and when they aren't named we can't return them to their rightful owner!

No nuts please

Please note due to children in school with allergies please do not send any products containing nuts into school for break or lunch times. Thank you for your co-operation.



Wellies

Could ALL children please have a pair of wellies at school. It is important that the children have wellies in school every day so they can join in with impromptu sessions in the forest area, wet play and they are also needed when we walk across the farmers field to church. Thank you.



Grapes & small tomatoes

If you are sending grapes or small tomatoes for snack or lunch boxes please



can you make sure you cut them at least in half length ways as these can be items children can choke on easily.

Thank you for your co-operation.
[Safe from choking | How to prevent choking in children](#)

PE Uniform

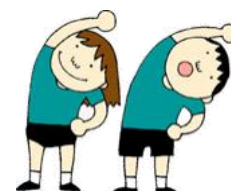
Teal t-shirt and black shorts or jogging bottoms.

PE Hoodie or school jumper

Earrings **MUST** be removed for PE - if your child can not remove them by themselves, please take them out at home before coming to school.

Earrings for school must be plain studs, **no hoops please** as these can get easily caught when children are playing.

Thank you for your co-operation.



HEDGEHOGS



Nursery had a fantastic first Forest School session this week. They explored the area by playing hide & seek, made clay wands & added natural objects and then they harvested our apples.



Attendance figures

School Attendance 15th - 19th September 2025

Hedgehogs 93%

Owls 97%

Foxes 98%

Whole School 96%

The National target for attendance, as set out in guidance from the DFE is 95%

Please note fixed penalty notice referrals **will** be made to the Local Authority for term time holidays.

Impact of lateness over a school year:



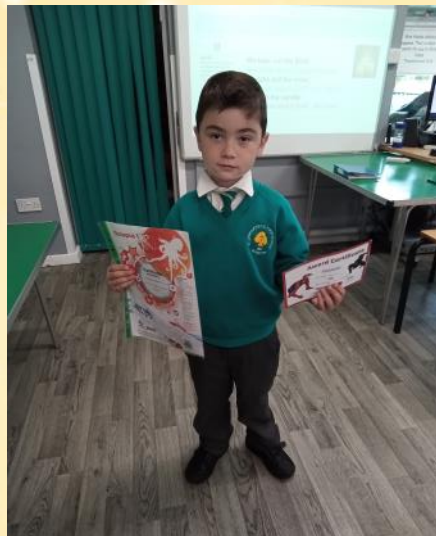
5 minutes late every day = 3 days absent

15 minutes late every day = 10 days absent

30 minutes late every day = 19 days absent

Pupils arriving late miss valuable teaching and learning time and it can contribute to them becoming anxious when they enter the classroom late.

Achievements from outside school



Swimming

If your child has recently received an award they would like to share with us, eg swimming, football, dance, Beavers, Brownies etc please send them into school & we will share them during our Celebration Worship on Friday.



In Maths, Year 1 have been investigating how to partition numbers 11-20 into tens and ones.



Owls are continuing to learn about real -life scientists and their discoveries. This week they have found out about Louis Pasteur who did lots of work to find out how germs spread. A few of the children dipped a hand in a tray of glitter which we pretended was germs. The children then walked around the room shaking hands with anyone they met on the way round. After a few minutes we discovered that everyone's hands were covered in 'germs'. We then discussed the importance of regular hand washing!

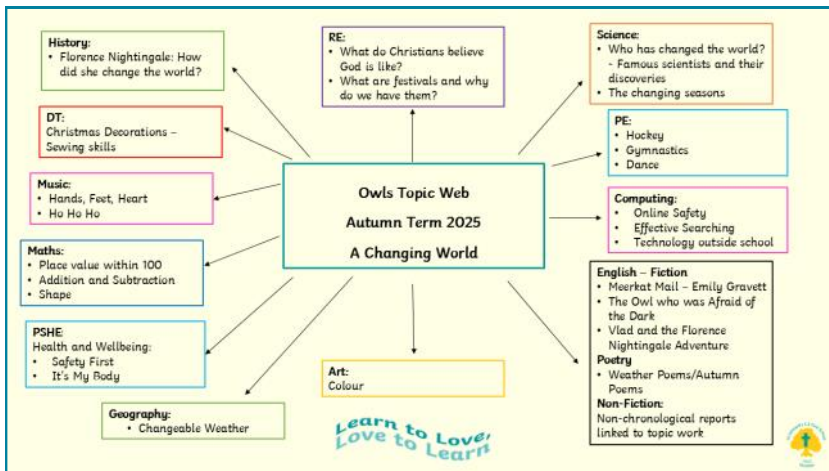




Owls class time table can be found on our website under the **Class tab**

<https://www.st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk/year-1-year-2-owls/>

Time table - Owls Autumn 2025									
	Registration - 8:45am - 8:55am - 10:30am	Break 10:30	10:50am - 12noon	Lunch 12pm	1pm - 3:10pm			Daily Reminders	
M O N	Whole School Worship Year 1 Phonics Year 2 Phonics/Spelling/Spag	English	Maths 12:30-1:00 6:78:90	Class Read	Geography / History	PSHE/RE		Water bottle, Reading books, Diary, PE kit, Wellies, Coat	
T U E S	Class Worship Year 1 Phonics Year 2 Phonics/Spelling/Spag	English	Maths 12:30-1:00 6:78:90	Class Read	Art/DT				
W E D	Whole School Worship Year 1 Phonics Year 2 Phonics/Spelling/Spag	English	Maths 12:30-1:00 6:78:90	Class Read	Science	Computing			
T H U R	Class Worship Year 1 Phonics Year 2 Phonics/Spelling/Spag	English	Maths 12:30-1:00 6:78:90		PE				
F R I	Celebration Assembly Year 1 Phonics Year 2 Phonics/Spelling/Spag	English	Maths 12:30-1:00 6:78:90	Class Read	Music	RE			



Owls Topic Web for this term can be found on our website under the **Curriculum tab**

<https://www.st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk/>



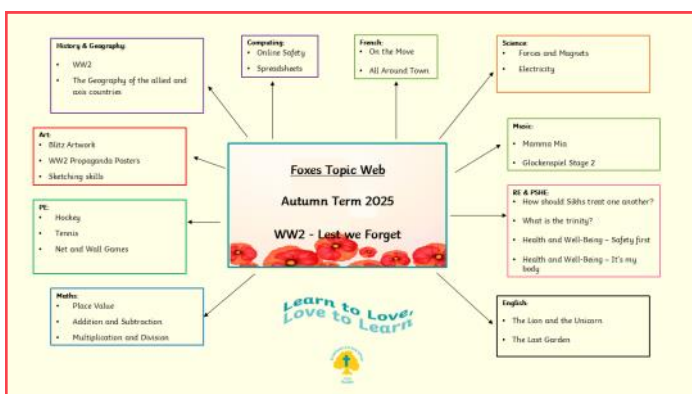
Foxes class time table can be found on our website under the **Class tab**

<https://www.st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk/year-3-year-4-foxes/>

Time table - Foxes - Autumn 2025									
	Registration - 8:45am - 8:55am - 10:30am	Break 10:30	10:50am - 12noon	Lunch 12pm	1pm - 3:10pm			Homework	
M O N	Whole School Worship ELS Spelling Phonics	Guided Reading	English	Maths Class Read	Fluency Maths 12:30-1:00 6:78:90	Science	Mile a Day	PSHE/RE	A short reading session is recommended at least 3 times a week
T U E S	Class Worship ELS Spelling Phonics	Guided Reading	English	Maths Class Read	Fluency Maths 12:30-1:00 6:78:90	Geography / History	Music		
W E D	Whole School Worship	Guided Reading	English	Maths Class Read	Fluency Maths 12:30-1:00 6:78:90	Art	Mile a Day	ICT	
T H U R	Class Worship / Picture News	PE	English Class Read	Fluency Maths	Maths 12:30-1:00 6:78:90	Maths	ELS Spelling	Daily Reminders	Water bottle, Reading books, Diary, Spelling, Wellies, Coat, PE kit, Thurst
F R I	Celebration Assembly	Guided Reading	English	Maths Class Read	French	RE	Fluency Maths 12:30-1:00 6:78:90		

Foxes Topic Web for this term can be found on our website under the **Curriculum tab**

<https://www.st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk/>





Postcard from the Headteacher

Learn to Love, Love to Learn

Easy fundraising

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stleonardsdunston>



Support our school at no added cost to yourself! By registering with Easy Fundraising every time you order on line you could gain commission for school. There are lots of companies registered including Amazon, Currys, Booking.com to name a few. Rest assured nobody at school sees what you are purchasing. - please support your school community!

Low Income Support

Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a Staffordshire school and who would normally be at school at lunch time. School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime and you can save yourself time and money. Children at our school also benefit from subsidised trips and subsidised Before & After School Care.

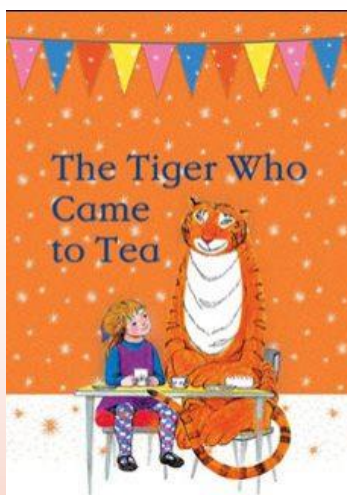
Please note: This is a different scheme to the free school meals your child is eligible for in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Apply here: [Apply online - Free School Meals - Staffordshire County Council](#)



Are you entitled?

In Hedgehogs this week we have read the Tiger Who Came to Tea and started our Drawing Club with Reception by drawing a tiger eating a plate of food. The children enjoyed lots of tiger themed drawing and craft activities along with recreating the story in the home corner and small world play. The tiger even came in to our home corner at lunchtime and stole all our food. We had to go and find it all in our Forest School area. In maths, Nursery have been learning about more and fewer by eating biscuits at snack time. Reception have been matching objects and learning the words same and different. Nursery have also had their first Forest School activity and discovered a hidden pear tree.



UK Health Security Agency **NHS**

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Illness	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minifec>

Illness

If your child is unwell please report their illness to the school office before 8:45am.

Medical Appointments

If your child has a medical appointment which can not be made outside of school hours then please email the school office with a copy of the appointment letter or if you've had a text appointment please show the office staff so that the absence can be recorded appropriately.

Foundation Governor Vacancy



A vacancy has arisen for a Foundation Governor on our Local Academy Council (School Governing Board)

Like all LAC members (Governors) Foundation Governors work to support the Headteacher and staff and they have a special responsibility to support the Christian ethos of the school.

You will be expected to attend Governor's meetings which happen after school hours and to also visit school so that you are aware what is happening in classrooms talking to both staff and children.

Although preference may be someone from our parish church, we are grateful for the support of anyone who maybe outside our parish. Successful candidates must be over 18 years of age and will need to have a DBS check which will be organised through the school office.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role, please contact:

Email: office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk

Tel: 01785 712488



Foxes have added silhouettes to complete their Blitz artwork.



In music we have been learning to keep a steady beat.



TTRockstar winners

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 24th September	Forest School - Reception
Wednesday 1st October	Forest School - Year 1
Wednesday 8th October	Forest School - Year 2
Wednesday 15th October	Forest School - Year 3
Wednesday 22nd October	Forest School - Year 4
Wednesday 22nd October	Parents evening - more info to follow
Thursday 23rd October	Church Celebration @ 9:10am - all parents welcome to join us
Thursday 23rd October	Parents evening - more info to follow
Friday 24th October	Inset Day - school closed to pupils
Monday 27th October	Half Term
Monday 3rd November	Back to school
Thursday 11th December	Reception to Year 4 Flu immunisations - more info to follow



Please see the dates above for Forest School sessions.

Children should arrive at school in clothing suitable for getting muddy on their Forest school day. Please also send your child with a sun hat/ waterproof clothing depending on the weather, a coat & wellies are a **MUST!** Please make sure all items are named.

Don't forget to keep up to date by following us on ..



facebook
Please search for

St Leonards First School
& Nursery



Our School website

<https://www.st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk/>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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-judgementally 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