



Happy New Year to all our wonderful children and their families!  
 We have had a busy and productive start to the new year across school and all children are working hard in their new topics. Look out for your learning parent newsletters which will be sent home with your child imminently. These will detail what your child will be learning this half term and will explain some ways you can help at home too. All children will also receive a homework rubric which includes a number of tasks. All tasks should be completed by the end of the half term. As your child completes each one, please ensure these are given to the class teacher.

## EYFS

### Ruby

This week we have introduced our new topic 'transport!' We have enjoyed making our own forms of transportation out of junk modelling!



### Amber

This week in our maths, we have enjoyed learning about heavy and light objects. We have used weighing scales to see which objects are heavier. Ask us to tell you what we think is heavy and light at home too!

## KS1

### Opal

In science this week, we have been learning about different animals and we thought about what our favourite animals are. Ask us to tell you what we chose at home.



### Jade

This week, in Jade class, we have been learning all about our numbers between 50 and 100. We have partitioned the numbers into tens and ones using dienes and other practical resources. We have had lots of fun exploring this!

### Pearl

The children in Pearl class have been using lots of different primary and secondary sources to research about our new topic, Africa.



## Lower KS 2

### Topaz

This week in Topaz class, we have been spending a lot of time getting to know our new text, Beauty and the Beast. We played a game called 'That's nothing!' where we had to try out-do each other with crazy things we had seen in the video for the song 'be our guest'.



### Citrine

The first week of our new topic gave us the chance to try some typical foods from the European continent. We sampled Spanish tortilla, Belgian waffles and even made our own Italian 'pasta alla casa'. What a way to begin – well done! Or, as they say in Italy, bravissimo ragazzi!



### Emerald

This week in RE we have started to learn about our new topic, Hinduism. We learnt about how Hindus have Gods that take on different forms. We thought about where else we see people or objects take on different forms, and looked at the differences and similarities between them.

## Upper KS2

### Amethyst

This week, in Amethyst class, we have started to read our new class novel 'River Boy'. The children have used some fantastic acting skills to retell the story opening.



### Tanzanite

This week in maths we have been looking at shapes and defining the properties of different triangles and quadrilaterals. We have also looked at 3d shapes and their nets and created our own versions of different 3d shapes



### Sapphire

This week we have continued to learn how to play the glockenspiel. We are working on following the notes and keeping in time.



## Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

Amber	Frank	Fantastic effort with your English this week! Super sentence sequencing!
Ruby	Mohammed T	Fantastic participation in all his learning and making great progress.
Opal	Ruben	An amazing start to the new year and super effort in class.
Jade	Shaz	For super independent maths challenges.
Pearl	Tayana	For always putting 110% into everything she does.
Topaz	Ali	For a great attitude this week, and fantastic resilience in maths.
Citrine	Kai	For making a very promising start to 2024. Fantastic attitude and a big smile on his face.
Emerald	Addison G	For having a super attitude and being enthusiastic in all his learning this week.
Amethyst	Ismail	For super improvement with his handwriting and sentence structure.
Tanzanite	Leo	For his amazing contribution across all areas of the curriculum but particularly in maths on shape.
Sapphire	Jacob	Amazing contributions in English lessons this week. Jacob is a real wordsmith.



**Principal's Reading Champions:** Hanna, Yusra, Haya, Ayesha, Tayana, Joseph, Jeriel, Minsa, Jack, Amelia, Alisha



**Principal's Award:** Maya Costache– for always making the right choices and being a great role model.

## Word of the Week ...



## Yellow lines & zig zags

We need your support to keep our children and families safe. Please DO NOT stop your car or park on the yellow zig zags outside school, the yellow lines around school or on the crossing area. The road outside school gets VERY busy. Your help in this will make sure that the chance of an accident happening is greatly reduced. We are still noticing parents and carers parking on these lines and encourage everyone to support us in keeping our children safe.



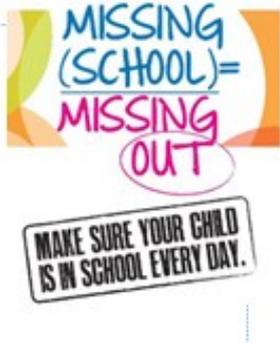
## Robinwood

Next week, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, our Year 6 children will be attending Robinwood. Please speak to a member of staff if your child is attending and you have any questions. A kit list was sent out earlier this week. There is no need to go out and buy anything special for a trip to Robinwood, all specialist equipment is provided. The clothing list given includes clothing being worn on the journey (so if you are wearing a pair of trousers for the journey, you only need to pack 2 more pairs).

Here are the things the children will need:



# Attendance



Overall attendance year to date – 93.5%

Weekly winners – Well done to: -

Pearl and Opal - 96%

Tanzanite – 94.4%

Our target is 96%



## Programme of Coffee Morning Agenda 2023-24

Coffee mornings will take place every Tuesday morning at 9:00am in the KS2 hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Here is the agenda for this half term..... please come and join us!



16<sup>th</sup> Jan- FCHO –free accredited training & 121 employment support courses for tenants

23<sup>rd</sup> Jan – Coffee, chatter & natter

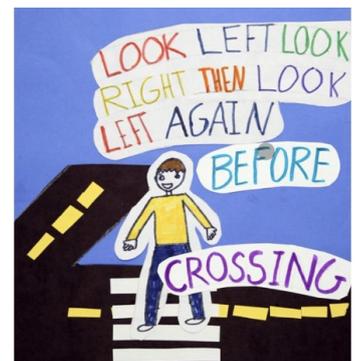
30<sup>th</sup> Jan – Get Oldham Working

6<sup>th</sup> Feb – Coffee, chatter & natter

13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Action Together – voluntary opportunities to promote self esteem, confidence & wellbeing

## Crossing Patrol

We are currently experiencing intermittent levels of school crossing patrol outside Alt Academy. This means, that there will be some sessions where there is not a crossing patrol on site. Whilst staff on duty can support a child crossing the road if they appear to be in danger, this support is not consistently available and is not to be relied upon. Please support your children to be safe on the crossing. If your child walks to and from school alone, please discuss road safety with them.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**



Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe - with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends - but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

## EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren'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 (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse - so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



## 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.

## 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 if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other 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.

## VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely - but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).



### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.



### DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.



### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up - and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.



### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life - especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.



### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

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



### 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.



Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/3206780356932-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-I-use-it> | <https://www.snap.com/en-gb/how-to/keeping-your-profile-and-new-safety-enhancements>  
<https://bit.ly/3m3a30j> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/3206780356932-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-I-use-it>



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## Music Service Choir

Below you will find a letter from the Oldham Music Service about the choir. The choir is open to children in Year 3 – Year 6. The first term is free of charge and there is a 50% discount after that for families eligible for free school meals. The choir is run by Mrs Preen – the children know Mrs Preen well as she teaches singing in school each week!

Date: 10 January 2024



### **Education, Skills and Early Years**

Oldham Music Service  
The Lyceum Building,  
Union Street, Oldham OL1 1QG

☎ 0161 770 5660

☎ 0161 770 5670

✉ [musicservice@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@oldham.gov.uk)

Dear Parent / Carer

### **An opportunity for your child to join one of the Oldham Music Centre Choirs FREE membership for the Spring Term!**

I have had the pleasure of leading Singing Assembly at Alt Academy this year and I have been very impressed by the quality of singing from the children. I am delighted to give your child the opportunity to sing and further their musical aspirations alongside other talented young musicians at the Oldham Music Centre.

It has long been proven that children who persevere and succeed in music develop better social skills, concentration and coordination. Indeed, recent research has shown that children achieve better levels in 'core' subjects, Maths, English and Science.

The Music Centre has a long and illustrious history of nurturing the musical talent of the young people of Oldham and engaging people of all ages in a variety of exciting musical activities.

### **Invitation**

**I would like to invite your child to register to join the choir relevant to their age-group:**

<b>Junior Choir</b>	<b>Vocal Recall*</b>	<b>Intermediate Choir</b>	<b>Oldham Youth Choir</b>
<i>Y3-Y5 Boys &amp; Girls</i>	<i>KS2 &amp; KS3 Boys</i>	<i>Y6-Y9 Boys &amp; Girls</i>	<i>KS4/5 Mixed Voices</i>
Wednesday 4.15pm-5.15pm	Wednesday 5.15pm-5.45pm	Wednesday 5.45pm-6.45pm	Wednesday 6.15pm-7.45pm

\* Vocal Recall: Boys must also attend either Junior Choir or Intermediate Choir

**All rehearsals are term time only.**

**YOU MUST REGISTER ONLINE BEFORE ATTENDING THE REHEARSAL.**

### **Many musicians... one harmony**

T: 0161 770 5660; F: 0161 770 5670; E: [musicservice@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@oldham.gov.uk)

Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service Twitter: @OldhamMusic

Website: [www.oldhammusicervice.co.uk](http://www.oldhammusicervice.co.uk)

Rehearsals take place at the Music Centre. The first rehearsal of the Spring Term is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Recruitment is on-going so you may join at any time after you receive this letter. The Spring Term will be FREE OF CHARGE.

The period from their first attendance until the end of that same term is a **free trial period**. If you decide to cancel before the start of the next academic term, no fees will be payable. Cancellation must be in writing, via letter to the address at the top of this document or by email [musicservice@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@oldham.gov.uk)

**Music Centre Membership Fees** (only applies after Easter)

Music Centre student membership is £53.50 per term and £44.20 for subsequent siblings. But remember that your first term is FREE (see above)

**There is no extra charge per student for being involved in more than one group. For example, your child may be a member of the brass band and a member of the choir all for just £53.50 per term.**

Families assessed as being eligible to receive **free school meals** will be entitled to a further **reduction of 50% per child** (pro rata for students who commence part way through the term).

To take advantage of this opportunity, please visit [www.oldham.gov.uk/music\\_centre\\_application](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/music_centre_application) to register for your child's free trial sessions or scan this QR code



I hope to see your child enjoying their music making as a member of the Oldham Music Centre. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Music Centre directly on the telephone number shown above, by e-mail or visit our website.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Preen  
**Subject Leader: Curriculum & Voice**

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