



# PORTHLEVEN SCHOOL

Friday 16th January 2026

## Autism Café

On Tuesday 10th February, Porthleven School will be hosting an **Autism Café** from **9:00–10:00am**.

Come along and join **Rebecca Thomas** for a relaxed and welcoming space to chat, connect, and enjoy a cuppa Everyone is very welcome — you do **not** need to have a diagnosis or be on the assessment pathway to attend. Just drop in and say hello!

We look forward to seeing you there.

## **DAILY THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- Water Bottle
- Coat
- Reading book and diary

### **PE Days From January**

Please note year 4 change

Reception - Monday

Year 1 - Thursday

Year 2 - Thursday

Year 3 - Wednesday

**Year 4 - Friday (Swimming)**

Year 5 - Friday

Year 6 - Friday



## **INSET Day**

Monday 23rd February  
school closed to children.



# *Message from Mr Clayden*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say a sincere thank you for your understanding and patience during what has been, weather-wise, a challenging start to 2026. Decisions around school closures are never taken lightly. Our priority is always the safety of children and staff, while also trying to minimise disruption for families by avoiding changes to drop-off and collection times wherever possible. When changes are necessary, we will communicate these first by email, followed by a brief text message, and we will also share the information on our Facebook page.

There is so much to look forward to in the Spring Term. This is always an exciting time in school, as we often see the greatest strides in children's learning. By now, teachers and learning assistants have a thorough understanding of each child's next steps, and children are increasingly confident and determined to have a go at skills they may find challenging.

As I have mentioned before, the start of the school day, especially registration time, is particularly important. During this period, children practise mathematical fluency, reinforcing the strategies and procedures they have been learning in their maths lessons, and some receive pre-teaching to support key maths objectives or topic vocabulary. We also use this time for spelling practice and to consolidate key knowledge from other subjects. Arriving promptly when class doors open at 8.40am ensures that children can make the most of these valuable learning opportunities.

I fully appreciate that getting children ready and to school at 8:40 every day can be a challenge. If you have any concerns about attendance or punctuality, please do feel free to catch me at the gate or arrange a meeting. I am always very happy to talk things through and explore how the school can support you and your child.

Over the coming weeks, we will be arranging attendance meetings with some families and would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that these are supportive meetings, designed to explore ways to help children attend school consistently.

Kind regards,

Dan Clayden

Head of School

# *Porthleven Notices & Reminders*

## **Facebook**

Follow us on Facebook to see what we've been up to at school!  
This month, we'll be counting down to Christmas and wishing you a season filled with magic, connection, and joyful moments.  
We'd love for you to share your photos or favourite activities below each daily post!



## **Long hair**

We kindly ask that all children with long hair come to school with their hair tied up. This is important for health and safety and helps prevent the spread of head lice.

## **Arbor Consents**

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the photo consents on Arbor. Going forward, we will be using Arbor for more of our school consent processes.

We have recently had additional consents added to Arbor, which you will now be able to review and update when you log in. This will replace the online form completed at the start of the year.

We would really appreciate it if you could complete the new consents on Arbor, as this will help reduce the admin involved in transferring information manually from the earlier forms.

## **Flu Clinic**

As you may have heard, there have been flu outbreaks around the county and flu is predicted to be particularly virulent this year. Kernow Health will be running extra flu clinics at various locations across Cornwall by appointment only.

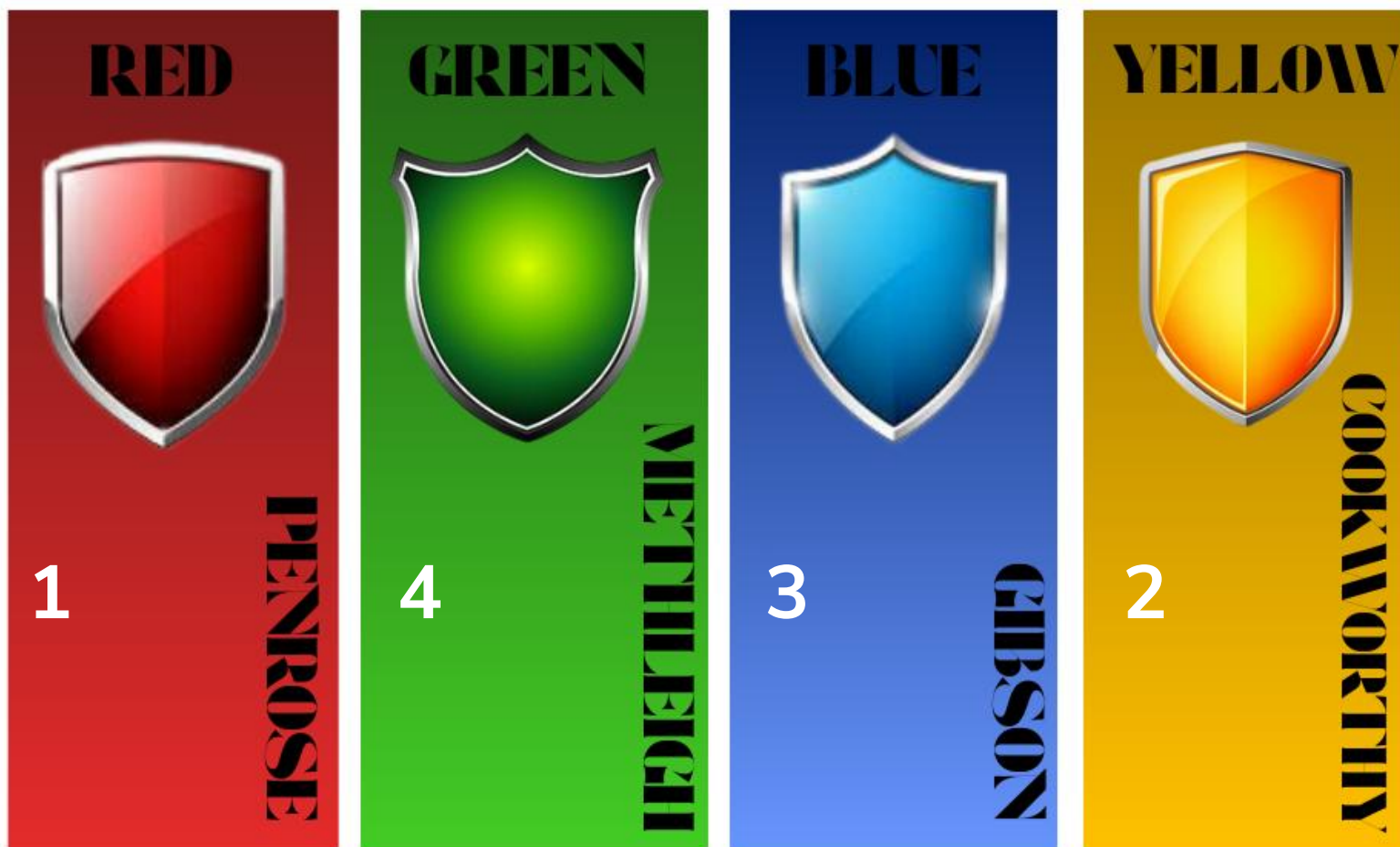
Please contact 01872 221105 or email [kernowhealthcic.schoolimmunisation@nhs.net](mailto:kernowhealthcic.schoolimmunisation@nhs.net) for further information on booking an appointment.

## **As a reminder to parents about attendance**

If you book a holiday in term time which is 5 days or more, and is not approved as an exceptional circumstance, our policy - in line with DFE guidance, is to refer this to the local authority for a fine to be issued. Please also be aware that schools need to consider fining if a child has 10 unauthorised sessions in a rolling 10 week period. Please do contact the school if you have further questions.



# PORTHLEVEN HOUSE POINTS RUNNING TOTALS



WELL DONE TO THIS WEEKS WINNERS – [Methleigh](#)

## ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Reception	91.8
Year 1	97
Year 2	99.2
Year 3	98.4
Year 4	98.4
Year 5	99.3
Year 6	93.8

This weeks winning class for attendance is  
is  
(Year 5)  
Manta Rays

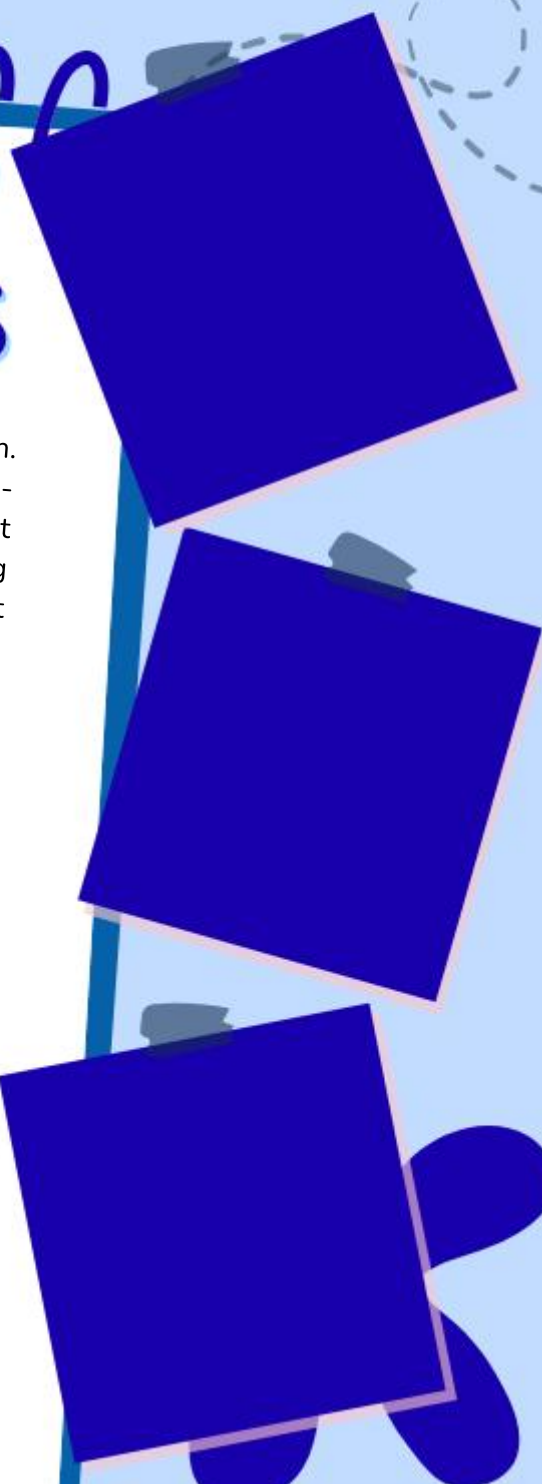
This weeks whole school attendance is 96.55%

# SWORDFISH



## A<sup>+</sup> SWORDFISH NEWS

In RE Swordfish Class have begun a new topic about Hinduism. The Hindu faith is full of fascinating, colourful stories and deities and the class are already big fans of Ganesha the elephant-headed deity and Shiva the God of Destruction. In our learning so far we have read about AUM, being the sound first heard at the creation of the universe, and used by Hindus in their meditation as a centring/focusing sound. As part of this, we 'dissected' the AUM script and looked at all the many things that combine to form it: dreams, focus, imagination, deep sleep and how they relate to us. As we continue the topic, we will be hearing stories from the Hindu faith about how Ganesha got his elephant head, the various fights and battles Shiva caused or got in, the music Saraswati shared with the world, as well as creating our own Hindu deities for a cause or hobby that is important to us. Swordfish Class are great RE learners. They're curious about the world and its various religions, comparing and contrasting to their own world-view, and particularly enjoy the stories from each faith. If the children want to draw their own versions of Shiva, Brahman, Ganesha, Lakshmi and Saraswati, these can be displayed in class for the remainder of our Hindu topic.



# SEAHORSES



## A+ SEAHORSE NEWS

This week in Maths, we have been exploring *teen numbers*. The children have been using Numicon and Base Ten equipment to build and represent these numbers, taking great care to keep their tens and ones in the correct place. They have enjoyed the hands-on activities and are becoming increasingly confident in understanding how teen numbers are composed. We have also been recording these numbers in different ways, including numerals, pictures, and written words.

In Literacy, we have been writing our own versions of *The Ugly Duckling*. The children have been working hard to include adjectives to make their writing more interesting and descriptive. It has been wonderful to see their imaginations shine as they retell the story.

In Science, we have been learning about humans and our bodies. One of the highlights of the week was drawing around each other and labelling different body parts. The children loved this practical activity and showed great enthusiasm when identifying and naming the features of the human body.



# Diary Dates

Date	Event
Friday 23rd January	Methleigh Green Team non- Uniform Day
Wednesday 4th—6th Feb	Year 5 School Camp
Tuesday 10th February	Autism café 9-10am
Monday 23rd February	INSET Day
Tuesday 3rd March	Year 1 Trip
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Friday 20th March	Reception Trip
Thursday 2nd April	Last day of term
Friday 8th May	INSET Day
Tuesday 2nd June	Year 4 trip
Friday 5th June	INSET Day
Wednesday 10th—12th June	Year 4 School Camp
Wednesday 24th June	Class Photos
Thursday 25th—26th June	Year 3 School Camp
Monday 13th –17th July TBC	Year 6 School Camp
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of Term
Thursday 23rd July	INSET Day

# AUTISM CAFE

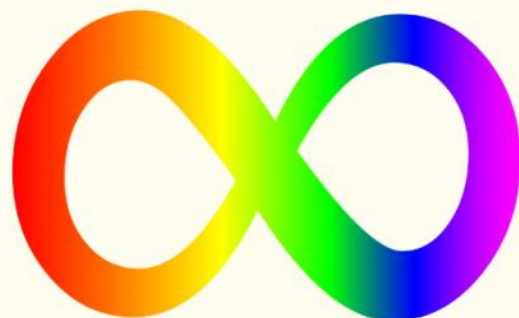
## TUESDAY 10TH FEB 2026

### 9-10AM AT PORTHLEVEN SCHOOL



*Everyone is welcome  
children dont need to  
be diagnosed or on the  
pathway to discuss their  
child*

*Speak with  
Rebecca Thomas  
From the Autism  
Team*



# Weekly Menus

## Please order on ParentPay

### WEEK 1

W/C: 03/11/2025, 24/11/2025, 15/12/2025, 05/01/2026, 26/01/2026, 09/03/2026, 30/03/2026

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
HOT DISHES	OPTION 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Potato Wedges	Beef Bolognese with Wholewheat Pasta	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken and Vegetable Pie with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Southern Fried Chicken with Chips
	OPTION 2	BBQ Vegetable Wrap with Potato Wedges	Vegetarian Bolognese with Wholewheat Pasta	Roast Quorn with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Cheesy Vegetable Hotpot	Quorn Dippers with Chips
	OPTION 3	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta
HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD						
DELI DISHES	OPTION 4	Cheese and Tomato Wrap	Tuna Wrap	Ham Wrap	Cheese and Tomato Wrap	Ham Wrap
	OPTION 5	Egg Mayonnaise Sandwich	Ham Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich	Tuna Mayonnaise Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich
DELI DISHES ARE SERVED WITH MIXED SALAD						
DESSERT	Crunchy Apple Slice	Strawberry Shortcake Mousse	Oat Cookie	Apple Crumble with Custard	Berry Blondie	



**BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY**  
With a choice of toppings



**AVAILABLE DAILY**  
Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water

Vegetarian Vegan Oily Fish Wholegrain Fruity! NutriMinder's Choice  
Our menus are subject to change. Please be assured that all nutritional medical diets and allergy requirements will be safely catered for.

### WEEK 2

W/C: 10/11/2025, 01/12/2025, 12/01/2026, 02/02/2026, 23/02/2026, 16/03/2026

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
HOT DISHES	OPTION 1	Macaroni Cheese	Pork Sausages with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	BBQ Chicken with Rainbow Rice	Battered Pollock with Chips
	OPTION 2	Veggie Burrito with Wholegrain Rice	Vegetarian Sausage with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Veggie Shepherd's Pie with Gravy	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Garlic Bread or Pasta Salad	Veggie Fingers with Chips
	OPTION 3	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta
HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD						
DELI DISHES	OPTION 4	Cheese and Tomato Wrap	Tuna Wrap	Ham Wrap	Cheese and Tomato Wrap	Ham Wrap
	OPTION 5	Egg Mayonnaise Sandwich	Ham Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich	Tuna Mayonnaise Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich
DELI DISHES ARE SERVED WITH MIXED SALAD						
DESSERT	Chocolate Caramel Crunch	Flapjack	Chocolate Brownie	Apple and Golden Syrup Sponge with Custard	Chocolate Cookie	



**BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY**  
With a choice of toppings



**AVAILABLE DAILY**  
Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water

Vegetarian Vegan Oily Fish Wholegrain Fruity! NutriMinder's Choice  
Our menus are subject to change. Please be assured that all nutritional medical diets and allergy requirements will be safely catered for.

### WEEK 3

W/C: 17/11/2025, 08/12/2025, 19/01/2026, 09/02/2026, 02/03/2026, 23/03/2026

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
HOT DISHES	OPTION 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Potato Wedges	Beef Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Wholewheat Pasta	Roast Gammon with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken and Sweetcorn Pasta Bake	Battered Pollock with Chips
	OPTION 2	Veggie Meat Feast Pizza with Potato Wedges	Veggie Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Wholegrain Pasta	Quorn Roast with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Macaroni Cheese	Veggie Fingers with Chips
	OPTION 3	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta
HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD						
DELI DISHES	OPTION 4	Cheese and Tomato Wrap	Tuna Wrap	Ham Wrap	Cheese and Tomato Wrap	Ham Wrap
	OPTION 5	Egg Mayonnaise Sandwich	Ham Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich	Tuna Mayonnaise Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich
DELI DISHES ARE SERVED WITH MIXED SALAD						
DESSERT	Chocolate Marble Cake	Orange Glazed Sticky Sponge Cake with Custard	Lemon Cookie	Crunchy Chocolate Mousse	Fruits of the Forest Jelly	



**BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY**  
With a choice of toppings



**AVAILABLE DAILY**  
Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water

Vegetarian Vegan Oily Fish Wholegrain Fruity! NutriMinder's Choice  
Our menus are subject to change. Please be assured that all nutritional medical diets and allergy requirements will be safely catered for.

**NEW!**



# Musical Theatre Dance Classes

Want to dance? Love musicals? Join us and learn the moves to your favourite shows and songs!

**Starting 5th January 2026**  
**Porthleven School**



## Class Times:



Mondays 4:30-5:15pm: **Reception, Year 1, Year 2**

Wednesdays 4-5pm: **Year 3 - Year 6**



SCAN HERE



[infinitydancecornwall.com](http://infinitydancecornwall.com)



# HELSTON SEA CADETS OPEN EVENING

Ages 9 -18 - All Welcome!

Looking for adventure, new skills and confidence? Want to learn new skills and take part in exciting activities? Then Sea Cadets is for you!

Come along to our Open Evening with your parents and carers and discover what being a Sea Cadet is all about.

📍 Where: Helston Family Hub, Bulwark Road, Helston, TR13 8JF.

📅 When: Wednesday 04 February 2026, 1800 - 2030.

📞 Contact us: [Helston.seacadets@gmail.com](mailto:Helston.seacadets@gmail.com)

🌐 Find out more: <https://www.sea-cadets.org/>



# TROS AN HELLYS

BEGINNER BAND

**ALTERNATE SATURDAY  
MORNINGS, 10:30-12  
ST. MICHAELS SCHOOL, HELSTON**

[vatkiss@cornwallmusicservicetrust.org](mailto:vatkiss@cornwallmusicservicetrust.org)

[lthrussell@cornwallmusicservicetrust.org](mailto:lthrussell@cornwallmusicservicetrust.org)





# Open Rehearsal



Join us for a relaxed open rehearsal evening.  
You don't need any singing experience –  
just come as you are!

You're welcome to sing along, sit back and listen, or just enjoy the coffee, cake and a friendly chat!

It's a lovely opportunity to meet new people, build confidence, learn new skills and find out about becoming part of a supportive choir!



Culdrose Community  
Centre  
Hibernia Rd, Helston  
TR13 8DH

Charity number: 1148302

22  
JANUARY  
2026  
7.30pm

# 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 fire 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.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

# COMMUNICATION AT PORTHLEVEN SCHOOL



## BY PHONE

Ring 01326 562249 between 8.15am & 3.30pm to speak to Mrs Blight out side these hours please leave a message.



## BY EMAIL

Email [porthlevensecretary@croftymat.org](mailto:porthlevensecretary@croftymat.org) anytime or your class email. Queries will be responded to between 8.30 and 4pm.



## ARBOR

Photo consent and communication from school will be from Arbor please download the app (pls contact the office for support setting up).

## OUR NEWSLETTER

Up coming dates for your diaries are shared on the newsletter along with some classroom news.

## OUR WEBSITE

Our website contains useful information about our school.