

10th October 2025

Dear Ellacombe Families,

Our Parents'/Carers' Evenings sign-up has been opened up this week so please use the app to sign up for a time to come and meet your child's class teacher. We think it is really important that all children have a chance to show you their amazing learning and we will be working hard to get 100% of parents/carers signed up.

Our KS2 Harvest Festival will be happening at St Mags church on Thursday 23rd October from 1.30—2.30pm with years 3-6 attending. Parents/Carers are welcome to join us for this special celebration. We will also be collecting food for the 'Living Room' which is a resource that the church provides to support families and individuals in need. If you have any small donations of tinned food they would be most appreciated.

We have some different in-school activities and events coming up over the next few weeks so please continue to check the diary section of this newsletter, and the app, to make sure you (and your children) are aware of everything that is coming up.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Regards, Ms Alison Helm: Headteacher

October

Thursday 16th	Year 3 to Kent's Cavern
Monday 20th October	Year 5 @ TGGs watching Mary Poppins
Monday 20th October	Individual photos
Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd	Parents'/Carers' Evenings (not year 3) - NO CLUBS THIS WEEK
Tuesday 21st & Thursday 23rd	Year 3 Parents'/Carers' Evenings - NO CLUBS THIS WEEK
Friday 17th & 24th	Year 6 Climate Change Workshop
27th to 31st	Half Term

Dates for your
diary ...

November

Monday 3rd	All children back in school
4th - 6th	Learn to Cycle (more details to follow)
26th—28th	Year 5/6 Heatree Residential

December

Friday 19th	Last day of Autumn Term
Monday 5th January	All children back to school



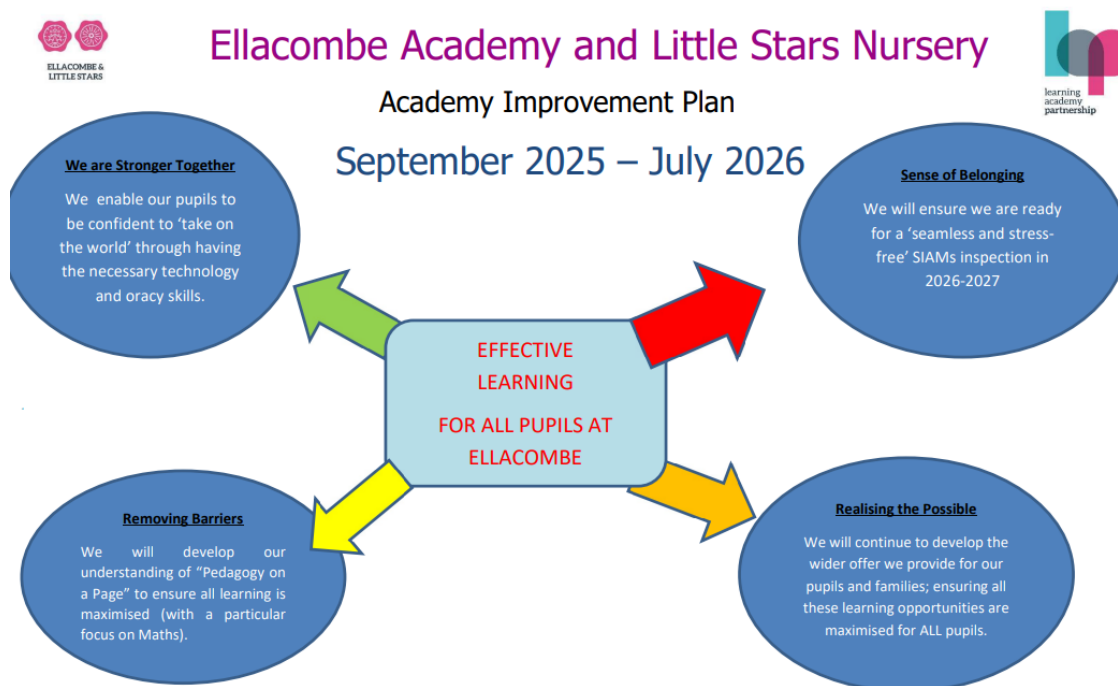
Attendance Awards

We are working really hard to make sure all our pupils are in school, every day and on time. Obviously we all get sick, every now and then, but if we are well, we need to be in school!



CLASS ATTENDANCE		HOUSE ATTENDANCE	
Little Lions	91.36%	Christie House	87.13%
Little Foxes	99.32%		
Little Tigers	95.26%	Darwin House	91.34%
Unicorns	86.95%		
Dolphins	96.55%		
Eagles	91.74%	Kingsley House	95.99%
Swans	95.42%		
Herdsmen	91%	Singer House	95.77%
Heroes	92.76%		
Hunters	91.6%		
Warriors	86.92%		
The winner is ... <i>LITTLE FOXES</i>		The winner is ... KINGSLEY HOUSE	

As a school, we have to focus on certain things each year to make sure we are providing the best possible education for your children. These are the things we are focusing on this year:



ELLACOMBE ACADEMY IMPROVEMENT PLAN: 2025-2026

New Ellacombe Facebook page

Thank you for those extra 'followers' who have found our new Facebook page. We will be using this as a space to share some of the amazing things we are doing in school so please keep checking for updates and information.

["Ellacombe C of E Academy"](#)



STARS OF THE WEEK	
 Little Stars	Cubs- Jessica for her amazing increase in confidence and curiosity at nursery this year - its is wonderful to see you shine!
	Chameleons- Jonah for joining in with circle time this week with such gusto!
 Little Lions	Ethen for fantastic progress with his phonics, super listening and always being kind.
 Little Foxes	
 Little Tigers	Harry for his amazing handwriting and effort in his learning!
 Unicorns	Marley for her excellent attitude to learning and improved resilience in school. We are so proud of you Marley!
 Dolphins	Addilyn for her positive and focused attitude towards her learning!
 Eagles	Louie for his fantastic rainforest research to support his English learning!
 Swans	Oscar M for your amazing descriptive writing in English.
 Herdsmen	Asad for such passionate contributions in our religion and worldviews lessons
 Heroes	George for your fantastic effort in maths, well done!
 Hunters	Kolby for being a good partner in class and role model in House Teams assembly
 Warriors	Daniella for being a great role model and working super hard!

Drumming club: Wednesday after school

There are some spaces available in our after school drumming club on Wednesdays. If this is something your child would be interested in attending, please can you contact Mrs Hughes in the office to get them added to the list.



New Ellacombe PTA Group

Thank you to those parents/carers who have shown an interest in joining the relaunch of a PTA to support the school. There will be the next meeting on Monday 20th October at 9am (drop off time) so please come along to find out more about how you can support us with events and fundraising.

HARVEST

This Harvest we will be taking donations for St Magdalene Church, Torquay

The Living Room is run by St Mary Magdalene church and hosted at St Mags by an army of wonderful volunteers from other churches and volunteers from the community. It is funded by voluntary contributions and grants.

Great things to have are meal type items

- Tinned curry/ chilli/ pies etc
- Tinned veg - sweetcorn, carrots, beans, green beans
- Big tins of potatoes
- Biscuits
- Squash
- Long life puddings
- NO pasta or rice—THANK YOU
- Ladies Sanitary items
- Bathroom and tooth brushing items



The Living Room is a "not for profit" community café based in St Mary Magdalene Church Torquay. Its purpose is "to create a relaxed, safe and friendly environment where people feel accepted valued and respected regardless of their beliefs, background or status." In addition we listen to people's problems and signpost them where appropriate to professional or other voluntary organisations.

Admissions policy for 2027-28: Annual Consultation

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2027-28. The Local Authority is also consulting on its arrangements – the admissions schemes through which you can apply. You are invited to look at the proposal new policies which are based on policies for this year and next year and to have your say on them.

Our proposed policy is on our admission page and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy> Further information is here: www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements

The consultation runs between 3rd November and 15th December.

Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March 2026 next year. You can comment at schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or by emailing the school.

The following change is being proposed by this school: Reduction in PAN at Ellacombe from 50 to 30



cfhd
Children & Family Health Devon

NHS

Children & Family Health Devon

WHO WE ARE?

We are a group of professionals including psychologists, psychiatrists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, nurses, administrative support and many other professions.

WHAT WE DO?

CFHD provides integrated, specialist care across physical and mental health for children, young people and their families in Devon and Torbay.

WHO CAN GET HELP?

Anyone aged under 18 who lives in Devon (excluding Plymouth) and Torbay can get specialist care from CFHD.

GET IN TOUCH

Single Point of Access Team

t: 0330 0245 321
e: CFHD.DevonSPA@nhs.net

www.childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk



cfhd
Children & Family Health Devon

NHS

Children & Family Health Devon

REQUESTING HELP FROM CFHD

Anyone aged under 18 who lives in Devon (excluding Plymouth) can get specialist care from CFHD. To get help from CFHD you will need a referral. A referral is the way to ask to see an NHS specialist.

If you need **urgent help** there are lots of places that offer instant access support over the phone, by text or online.

WHAT ARE PATHWAYS OF CARE

After we've received a referral, our experts decide whether the child or young person needs specialist care from CFHD.

If they do, the child or young person and their family will receive care from one or more CFHD Pathways depending on their particular needs.

Each Pathway covers a particular set of issues. Healthcare specialists work together within each Pathway to provide the best care and support.

CFHD PATHWAYS OF CARE

- Urgent Care
- Speech, Language and Communication
- Physical and Sensory
- Community Children's Nursing
- Neurodiversity
- Business Support and Single Point of Access
- Early Child Development
- Specialist Learning Disability
- Addressing adverse childhood experiences
- Mental Health Support Team
- Mood, Emotions and Relationships
- Eating Disorders

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR
MORE INFORMATION



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. Summaries delivered by National Online Safety. These guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.org.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together. They can give parents for young users. They might feel excluded if they are not invited. They might feel excluded if they are not invited. They might feel excluded if they are not invited.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. They might use WhatsApp to contact you. They might use WhatsApp to contact you. They might use WhatsApp to contact you.

CHANNELS

Channels are used to share topics. They can be used to share topics. They can be used to share topics. They can be used to share topics.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help users. They can be used to help users. They can be used to help users. They can be used to help users.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – sometimes at the risk of spreading misinformation. WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – sometimes at the risk of spreading misinformation.

CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat Lock' feature lets users. It can be used to let users. It can be used to let users. It can be used to let users.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'Live location' feature helps friends. It can be used to help friends. It can be used to help friends. It can be used to help friends.

AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp gives users. It can be used to give users. It can be used to give users. It can be used to give users.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Ask them to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's a good idea to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy & Settings'. You can give permission for 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'Live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or reveal a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you get a 'United Kingdom' pop-up, you might want to test about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with, and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

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 conducted research for the educational sector on children's online safety and wellbeing. She is also a frequent speaker at conferences and events across the UK, USA and Australia.

The National College

Source: See full reference on our guide page at <https://nationalcollege.org/guides/whatsapp>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.04.2025

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

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 and videos are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like 'My AI' chatbot and AI-generated avatars. These tools may appear fun, but they also pose risks. These tools may appear fun, but they also pose risks. These tools may appear fun, but they also pose risks.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boasts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks and daily scheduled exchanges between you and a friend. If a streak is broken, the number of days it's been going for is lost, and users will need to 're-streak'. The number of days it's been going for is lost, and users will need to 're-streak'.

SEXUATION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become lulled into a false sense of security. A predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then someone might share those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might make children feel they will share the images with friends or family unless warned to stop.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called 'Luxe', giving subscribers access to hundreds of items and 50% discounts on shopping, creating, and sharing snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or being 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 it 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 messages used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent-seeming meme could end up as inappropriate content. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images or videos – so having a conversation 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's new Snapchat Family Safety Hub explains how the app works and how to develop a family safety plan that explains how the app works and how to develop a family safety plan that explains how the app works.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be more to parents if you're not on the app. Talk about scores and streaks before asking children to sign up. If they've used it to access, encourage them to tell you everything. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about using Snapchat, and encourage them to understand the boundaries of the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Set 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 to their Snapchat group.

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 conducted research for the educational sector on children's online safety and wellbeing. She is also a frequent speaker at conferences and events across the UK, USA and Australia.

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

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