

WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal's Welcome

Friday 12th December

Dear Parents / Carers

We are looking forward to a week of celebration next week. Our assemblies and silent discos are planned as a positive reward for all year groups.

The Christmas Show was excellent and it was great to see so many of you at this event on Wednesday. There was a lovely, festive atmosphere and I really enjoyed celebrating the achievements and talents of our students on the stage. From singing to guitar, to cello, to keyboard, and an amazing performance by the West Craven School Band. The students entertained the audience with an excellent programme of songs, drama performances, and dance. Many of the students were performing for their first time! It has been wonderful to watch the confidence of these young people grow and grow, as they continue to practice and rehearse. I look forward to seeing many of them perform again, perhaps in a summer concert later this year?!

We have our rewards assemblies next week, where we celebrate those students nominated for their effort, attainment and positive contribution to the school. I love these assemblies because it is a chance for us to come together as a community to celebrate each other's success. I want every child to be successful during their time at West Craven and I want to take every opportunity to reward different strengths, talents and achievements. We have students that have had their work published, artists that have excelled in workshops, musicians, sports players, those that have gone the extra mile for charity or the community, as well as those that just do the right things day in, day out! Our school is full of amazing young people, and this is intended to be full celebration of all we have achieved in 2025!

Thank you for all of your donations to the Barnoldswick Foodbank. The shopping trolley is once again full to overflowing and will be delivered in time for the start of the Christmas holidays. I am very proud of our students for doing this work and it is a lovely gesture at this time of year to think of those that may be less fortunate than ourselves. It is a lovely time of year, but it can also be a difficult time of year for many people. We are a school at the heart of our community and while it may only be a small gesture, it is important to contribute and support those in our community that need a little help at this time of year.

We have a busy week next week and we will be teaching lessons right up until the last day. We know there has been a flu bug around, and this hit quite a few people last week. It will be good to welcome back students that haven't been well and include them in our celebrations this week. It's important that children attend school if they are well enough to come in. We can help students catch up on the learning that they have missed and get them back in to good routines ready for 2026!

Thank you for your continued support



Mr Bates, Principal



STARS OF THE WEEK



7

Isabelle
Gracie
Illie
Maryam



8

Frankie
Alice
Blake
Olivia

9

Madiyyah
Eva
Issac
Frankie

10

Christopher
Faye
Elise
Kai

11

Freddie
Isaac
Bonnie
Evie
Miley
Amelia
Imaan

Congratulations to this week's top students from each form group.



CHRISTMAS SHOW

What a fantastic evening we had on Wednesday, celebrating the incredible talent of our students at the West Craven High School Christmas Show!

We were delighted to welcome over 15 local stallholders for our festive Christmas Markets, giving parents and families a wonderful opportunity to browse and support local businesses before the show began.

The Christmas performance itself was truly magical, featuring brilliant contributions from Stage Door Dance School, Imogen School of Dance, our school choir, solo performances and the school band. Every performance showcased the enthusiasm, dedication and talent of our young people, and it was wonderful to see such fantastic support from our school community.

Thank you to everyone who joined us – it was an amazing night!



CHRISTMAS SHOW

Earlier in the day, we were also delighted to host a special matinée performance for our local primary schools.

Children from across our community were invited to enjoy a preview of the Christmas Show, featuring performances from Stage Door Dance School, Imogen School of Dance, our school choir and the school band.

It was wonderful to welcome so many excited young visitors into school and share a little festive magic with them. Their enthusiasm, applause and smiling faces made the morning truly special.



CHRISTMAS SHOW



CURRICULUM UPDATE MATHS

This half term has been a busy and productive one for the Maths Department. Our Year 11 students have completed their mock examinations, providing valuable insights to help guide their preparation for the summer exams. Across Key Stage 3, students have just finished their mid-year assessments, and we are pleased with the progress they are making.

In lessons, Year 7 have been focusing on place value and mastering the four operations, building strong foundations for future learning. Year 8 have been working on coordinates and graphs, alongside developing fluency in multiplying and dividing fractions. Thank you to all students for their hard work and resilience this term. We look forward to continuing this momentum into the next half term!



$$(\sqrt[n]{a})^m = \sqrt[n]{a^m} = a^{\frac{m}{n}}$$

Mr M Balal
Assistant Principal
Whole School Data
& Director of Maths



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION WINNERS

Pendle Education Trust Christmas Card Competition – West Craven Success!

A huge well done to West Craven students Shakira and Bradley who reached the finals of this year's Pendle Education Trust Christmas Card Competition.

Their festive artwork was fantastic and we are incredibly proud of their creativity and effort.

Both students attended the celebration event at Castercliffe Primary School this week, where they received certificates and prizes for reaching the finals.

A special congratulations to Bradley, who went on to WIN the overall competition! What a brilliant achievement and a wonderful reflection of his artistic talent.

Well done to both students – we are extremely proud!



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Thank you to all the staff and students who came into school this week dressed so festively in their Christmas jumpers. It's wonderful to take part in such a lovely event as a school community, supporting Save the Children's national Christmas Jumper Day campaign.



 West Craven High School
Christmas Jumper Day
THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
SAVE THE CHILDREN
CHARITY
Please bring in a £1 donation


If you don't own a Christmas jumper you can wear a Christmas accessory.



SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Uniform reminder: Jewellery and Hair

All our decisions are made based on students being in a work mode with no social agenda to detract from the core purpose of school life which is to work hard, learn and make progress. Our uniform is designed to be smart and simple. Wearing a uniform demonstrates high standards, our academy values and a sense of community.

Students are allowed to wear a wristwatch and one pair of plain stud or small sleeper earrings in the lower ear. No other jewellery e.g. rings, chains, bands, bracelets and tongue or nose piercings may be worn.

We have a duty of care to all our students and this includes responsibility for health and safety. The wearing of facial jewellery, nose studs, tongue piercings, multiple earrings, necklaces, ear stretchers and other items which could cause harm or breach Health & Safety requirements in school is not allowed. We are unable to accept responsibility for replacing any items which are lost or stolen whilst in school. School reserves the right to ask students to refrain from wearing inappropriate jewellery or other items of non-uniform; for reasons of safety, security or appropriate appearance, students will be asked to remove the item.

In addition to adhering to the correct dress code outlined in the uniform policy we also expect students to present themselves with an acceptable appearance. As we strive to prepare and equip students for working life we expect hairstyles to be sensible and appropriate for school. Hair colouring is to be all one colour and a natural colour.

Extreme haircuts are not acceptable. The definition of an extreme hairstyle is at the discretion of the Senior Leadership Team, but include:

No shaved heads or other extreme hairstyles

Hair must not be shorter than a number 2 razor cut

No tram lines

No decorative braids

No excessively bright or multi coloured hair dyed in other than natural colours.

Students must wear their hair tied back during practical lessons for safety and hygiene reasons, for example in PE, Food technology, Design technology and Science when carrying out experiments.



SCHOOL REMINDERS

New Classroom Posters to Support Our Students

Over the past few weeks, we've been working hard to create clear and positive reminders of our school expectations. You'll now see new posters displayed in every classroom, including:

- **Super Six – School Standards and Expectations**
- **S.E.L.F – Students are Ready for Learning**
- **Equipment Reminders – Helping students Come Prepared for Learning**
- **The 3Cs: Behaviour for Learning – Focusing on Chance, Choice and Consequence**

These posters are designed to reinforce the high standards we expect and to support every child in making positive choices. Please take a moment to talk to your child about these expectations and how they can demonstrate them every day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a safe, respectful, and successful learning environment.



THE WEST CRAVEN SUPER SIX

- 1 STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS**
Teachers create and deliver a curriculum that is inspiring, inclusive and innovative.
- 2 LEARNING INTENTIONS & BUILDING KNOWLEDGE**
Learning is facilitated to enable students to make connections between concepts and build knowledge and skills within and across subjects, starting the day by activating prior and future learning.
- 3 ASSESSMENT & FEEDBACK**
Teachers are experts at translating curriculum content into powerful questions, explanations and rigorous learning activities, which helps develop students' self-knowledge and understanding.
- 4 INCLUSIVE TEACHING**
Teachers understand all teaching students, understanding and meeting individual needs. Students 'shine' they bring their own talents and abilities to the classroom and learn the way.
- 5 HIGH CHALLENGE & AMBITION**
Learning extends and broadens students' language and vocabulary in both spoken and written forms, and increases their reading competency across all subjects through the use of high quality texts.
- 6 COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE**
High quality conversations and writing in writing and spoken form, extend and broaden their vocabulary, ideas and engage with others through speaking and listening, reading and writing in spoken and written form.



THE WEST CRAVEN WAY

CHECK YOUR S.E.L.F

- SIT UP** 
- EQUIPMENT READY** 
- LISTEN** 
- FOCUS** 



EXPECTATIONS & EQUIPMENT

- 1 DUMTUM - date, underline, miss a line, title, underline, miss a line**
- 2 Have pencil cases out on tables** 
- 3 No graffiti in exercise books** 
- 4 Have mini whiteboards and pens out on tables** 



BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING THE 3 CS

- 1 CHANCE**
If your behaviour for learning does not meet our high expectations, you will be given the chance to correct this. Your name will be taken (not displayed), but no negative behaviour point will be given.
- 2 CHOICE**
If you don't correct your behaviour for learning, you will receive a negative behaviour point on ClassCharts. You now have the choice to correct your behaviour.
- 3 CONSEQUENCE**
If you choose not to correct your behaviour for learning, you will be given a 30 minute teacher detention.



Ms Parkinson



PASTORAL UPDATES

Dear Year 8 Pupils and Parents,

As we approach the festive season, we want to take a moment to celebrate the wonderful efforts and achievements of our Year 8 community.

Thank you to all the families that have supported the community food bank and generously donated food items, toiletries and small gifts in support of others. Your kindness will make a real difference to families in need this Christmas.

Our Christmas Jumper Day was a fantastic success! It was wonderful to see so many creative and festive jumpers brightening up the school. Thank you for joining in the fun and helping us spread holiday cheer

We are incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication shown by Year 8 pupils this term. Your commitment to learning and positive attitude have been outstanding.

Year 8 continues to demonstrate a fantastic community spirit showing kindness and respect, making our school a positive and welcoming environment.

Wishing You a Wonderful Christmas

As we head into the holidays, we hope you enjoy a well-deserved break. Take time to relax, recharge, and enjoy special moments with your family and friends.

Thank you for making this term so memorable. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

**Mrs Freeman Year 8
Pastoral Lead**



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

This week our Year 11s had their mock interview day in which fifteen local employers gave up their time to come and interview our students to prepare them for future employment and college applications. The day was a great success with many employers commenting on how well the students spoke and their attitude towards the event.



This wraps up another great half term for Personal Development here at West Craven with students involved in many activities from a variety of different organisations in addition to the curriculum they already receive. In the new year we look forward to more visits from Nelson and Colne College as well as our careers fair and Year 10 work experience.



Mr J Brook
Personal Development Lead



CAREERS

Nelson and Colne College are delighted to invite our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils from school to join their upcoming free after-school academies this December and January – and they have just added even more sessions!

These academies are a fantastic way for students to:

Explore subjects they're passionate about

Enjoy interactive activities

Learn about careers, courses and apprenticeships

Experience college life and meet tutors and other pupils

Upcoming Academies:

Future Hair Professional Academy (Creative)

Next Dates: 9 or 11 Dec – NCC & ARC

Future Engineers Academy

Next Date: 13 Jan – NCC only

Future Construction Professional Academy

Next Date: 21 Jan – ARC only

Future Digital/IT/Cyber Analyst Academy

Next Date: 21 Jan – NCC & ARC



WORK OF THE WEEK



Fantastic Geography work created by Tia in year 8.

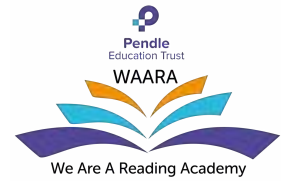
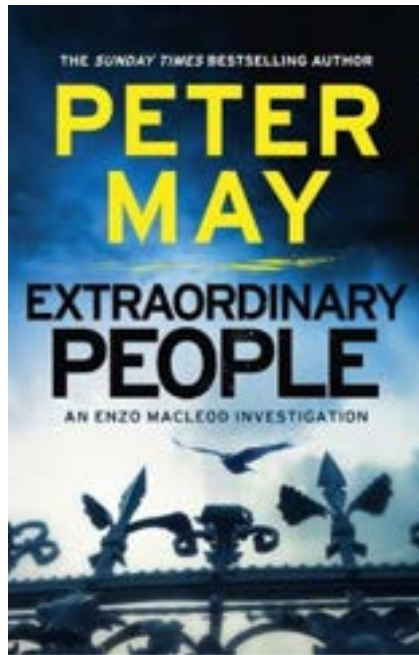
She has created a beautiful tourist information leaflet on India for homework. She has included places to visit, things to do and cultural aspects.



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

The librarian loves

Extraordinary People by Peter May. It is a cold case mystery set in France. The perpetrators of the crime have created a macabre treasure hunt that a detective is trying to solve to find a missing person. It is an absorbing and complex read, and I am enjoying figuring out the clues. I am pleased that it is the first in a series; a bonus when you are enjoying a book that you do not want to finish.



There are a number of book and play adaptations on the BBC at the moment including Macbeth, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall and Jane Eyre. Adaptations often make texts more accessible. Watching the plotline enacted makes novels easier to understand, whilst bringing characters to life. It provides a gateway into a text, furnishing you with a visual landscape to supplement your own imaginary one.

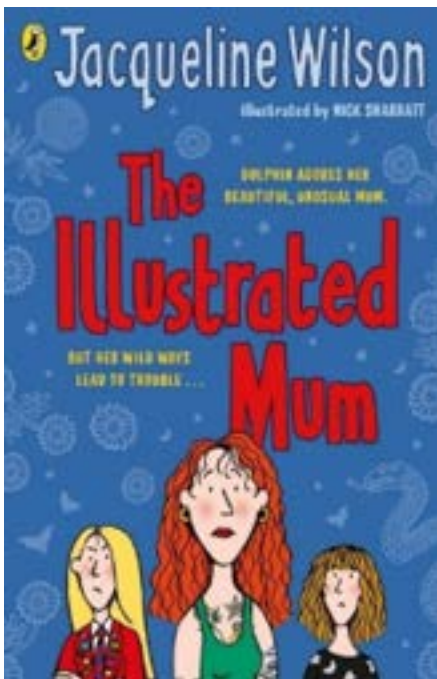
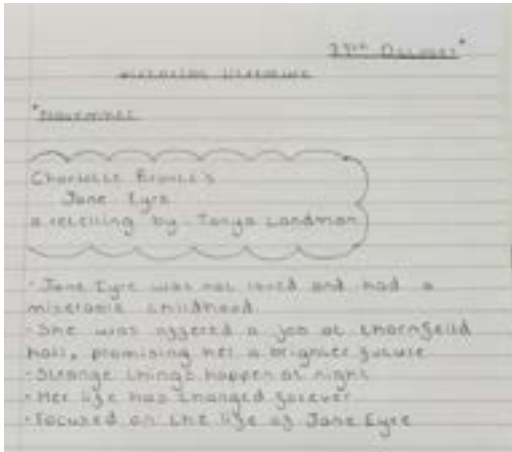


Continuing on with our series on the Dewey Decimal System, we have now reached number 400, which is where you will find dictionaries, linguistics and etymology. In this section you will find The Illustrated Etymologicon. Etymology is the study of the origin of words.



WE ARE A READING ACADEMY

Year 8 have been learning all about Victorian novels. During their library time, they used a curated collection of library books to carry out research on authors who were writing during the Victorian period.



Jacqueline Wilson was born on the 17th December 1945. She is the author of over 100 books for children and is the creator of characters such as Tracy Beaker and Hetty Feather. Jacqueline is a former Children's Laureate and in 2008 she received a Damehood. Some of her books can be found in the school library.



Well done to Isabelle, John, Ava, Eva and Olivia on achieving a reading age of seventeen. What a fantastic achievement.



Nelson Library Festive Events

Date	Time	Event	Age	Booking Req?
School Holiday WEEK 1 – w/c 22nd December 2025				
Every Day	All Day	Festive Scavenger Hunt	6+	No
Mon 22 nd	11am – 2pm	Lego Club	Family	No
Mon 22 nd	2:30pm – 4pm	Lego Animation Workshop	8+	Yes
Tues 23 rd	2:30pm – 4pm	Festive Activities	Family	No
Sat 27 th	11am – 3pm	Lego Club	Family	No
School Holiday WEEK 2 – w/c 29th December 2025				
Every Day	All Day	Festive Scavenger Hunt	6+	No
Mon 29 th	11am – 2pm	Lego Club	Family	No
Mon 29 th	2:30pm – 3:30pm	Tingo Bingo	Family	No
Tues 30 th	11am – 2pm	Lego Club	Family	No
Tues 30 th	2:30pm – 3:30pm	Winter Wonderland Storytime and Crafts	Family	No
Weds 31 st	2pm – 3pm	New Years Eve Storytime	Family	No
Sat 3 rd Jan	11am – 3pm	Lego Club	Family	No

All activities are free of charge. If you have any questions, or would like to book a slot where necessary, please visit the appropriate library and ask at the enquiries desk, call 0300 123 6703 or book online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries

Christmas and New Year Closures

Nelson library will be closed on the following days:

- Wednesday 24 December
- Thursday 25 December
- Friday 26 December
- Thursday 1 January
- Friday 2 January

This library will close at 5.00pm Wednesday 31 December

All libraries return to their usual opening hours from Saturday 3 January.

lancashire.gov.uk



www.westcraven.co.uk



[westcravenhighschool](https://www.facebook.com/westcravenhighschool)



[westcraven.barnoldswick](https://www.instagram.com/westcraven.barnoldswick)

EXTRA CURRICULAR OFFER

West Craven High School

After School Clubs



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Badminton PE 	Rugby YR 7&8 3G Pitch 		Netball Yr 9 & 10 	Art Room M10 
Teambuilding Once Per month	Netball Year 7&8 		Football Yr 7, 8 & 9 	
French Club Room G3 Year 10s	Basketball All pupils Sports Hall 		Dodgeball Yr 7 & 8	
Library Homework club	Library Homework club	Library Homework club	Library Homework club	
Youth Enterprise / Fundraising Room G11 	Band club Main Hall 		DT Revision Yr 11 Room G7 Starting after half term	
History Year 7,8,9 Room M7	Stage Door Drama Club 3:30pm - 4:45pm Room T1/2 		SEN Homework Club Room M8	
			Imogen's dance School 3:30pm-4:30pm Gym 	
			Science Club Room M2 	









EXTRA CURRICULAR OFFER

West Craven High School

Lunchtime Clubs



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Library Years 10 & 11	 Library Years 7,8, & 9	Library Years 7,8, & 9	Library Years 7,8, & 9	Library Years 10 & 11
Games Club Room M1 	Choir Lunch time Room G8 	Computing All Years Room G11	Touch Typing Club All years Room G12 	
		 Creative Writing Room T8 Year 7 only	Karaoke Club Room T7 	



OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

Out of School Achievement

On Saturday, Jessica in Year 7 proudly represented Barlick Fell Runners for the first time at the U13 Lancashire Cross Country Championships. This was also Jessica's first ever club race.

She performed exceptionally well, finishing in 26th place and coming just three minutes behind the winner on a challenging 2.7km course. Well done, Jessica, on an impressive debut performance!



If you would like to share your child's out of school achievements, please contact jvetts@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



End of term - 19th December - students dismissed at 1pm

School re-opens - 5th January 2026

Year 9 Parents Evening - 29th January

Poetry Live - YR10 Manchester Bridgewater Hall 4th February

Year 10 Barclay's Life Skills (session3) 5th February

Year 11 revision launch - 5th February

NSPCC Number Day - 6th February

National Apprenticeship Week - 9th February

Safer Internet Day - 10th February

End of term - school closes - 13th February

School re-opens - 23rd February



OUR COMMUNITY

Community Advertisements

In this section of our newsletter, we share posters for local events, activities, and charities.

If you would like us to advertise a community event or club, please email jvetts@pendleeducationtrust.co.uk.

Please note that West Craven High School is not affiliated with these organisations and cannot endorse the events, promotions, or clubs. We will only feature events that we consider appropriate for our school community.

We are
Community

Stay connected, follow us on Facebook and Instagram

A very warm welcome to all our new Year 7 families! We are thrilled to have you join the West Craven High School community. To stay updated on school news, student achievements, important events, and reminders, we encourage all parents and carers to follow our official Facebook and Instagram pages.



West Craven High School



WestCraven.Barnoldswick



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 800 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.

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 misadventures, 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 when offline.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of extortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture these 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 Snap+, 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 or impulses – so sending 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 'Safety and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to look sexually explicit images, or 'hacker'.

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 Sutcliffe 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 online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

