



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a real privilege to be writing this newsletter to you for the first time as your permanent principal. I have received such a warm welcome in my first term at Elvin and it has been a real delight getting to know our students and meeting our parents and local community. The whole team have been really busy at Elvin this term – preparing for our spring term assessments, celebrating international women's day, planning and leading our reward trips (more to follow), our first Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, our students' art work displayed at the Saatchi Gallery, supporting our GCSE and A Level revision and welcoming next year's new Year 7 children and their families to our open evenings. Through all this activity we have been excited to witness great progress with our new building – the sports hall went up over the last month and with windows going in and final walls being erected the shape of our new school is clear to see. In the summer term we will have a number of visits to the new site for staff and students – expect plenty of photographs to follow!

I am excited to be leading our school in its next phase – our team are committed to working together to make our school great. We believe there are six key areas we need to focus on to rapidly improve our school:

Strong Discipline

We believe that strong discipline is essential in providing the calm and focussed environment that allows pupils to learn, show and receive respect and develop the behaviours that will enable them to play a full role in society.

Curriculum Mastery

We are building our curriculum to enable all pupils to develop a framework of knowledge and understanding in each subject area that provides a solid foundation for further study and stretches all pupils regardless of their starting point.

High Quality Teaching

We are committed to ensuring that all lessons are taught by well qualified subject specialists with an excellent understanding of the intellectual journey they are taking their pupils on and support all our teachers to master the teaching skills to achieve this.

Character Development

We are developing our PSHE programme and tutor time to ensure that all our pupils develop the characteristics that support their academic achievement, and support them to become thoughtful citizens able to make reflective choices over their personal lives.

Raising Aspiration and Enrichment

We want every pupil who leaves Ark Elvin to have enjoyed a range of activities that have developed their passions and interests through our enrichment and raising aspirations programmes.

Developing Educational Leaders

We are supporting all members of staff to see themselves as leaders within an aligned community of professionals and to systematically train them in implementing best practice.

We believe that a relentless focus on these six pillars will ensure we make real progress as a school in the coming months and in the process significantly improve provision for every child. I welcome feedback from parents and carers so if you would like to meet with me please do not hesitate to contact my PA, Venessa George, directly on v.george@arkelvinacademy.org.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Curtis

Principal

End of Term Rewards

In our last week of term over 450 students took part in our reward trips – with each year group travelling across London to take part in a range of activities. All these pupils had worked extremely hard throughout the term and had received at least 120 merits from their teachers. The pupils who remained at school took part in the ‘Humantopia’ workshops ‘Who am I?’ – A series of inspiring one day events focusing on developing confidence, optimism, happiness and employability.



Year 7 at the Natural History Museum



Year 7 Ice Skating



Year 10 in Hyde Park



Year 10 at the Science Museum

For all calendar updates, news and events please go to our website at arkelvinacademy.org



Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition Bank Holiday

Key dates

24 th April	Year 7 French Trip Information Evening
24 th April	New Year 7's welcome evening
29 th April	Duke of Edinburgh Award trip Year 9
13 th May	Duke of Edinburgh Award trip year 10
20 th May	Duke of Edinburgh Award trip year 7
25 th May	Year 10 French Trip
30 th May	Half term
10 th June	Duke of Edinburgh Award trip year 8
5 th July	New Year 7 Induction day
7 th July	Staff training day
12 th July	Year 7 French Trip
21 st July	Last Day
8 th September	First day for year 7's and parent review day Y8-11.

Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?

If you are a parent or carer, and receive any of the benefits below, then your child is eligible for Free School Meals:-

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance.
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are Not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross household income of no more than £16190)
- The Guaranteed Element of State pension Credit
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
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What to do next?

If your application for Free School Meals is successful, Ark Elvin Academy will also receive extra funding from the Government to use in support of teaching and learning (Pupil Premium). This will be used by the school to enhance teaching and learning opportunities for your child.

If you would like to apply for Free School Meals you can:

Ask at Reception for an application form

On-line e-safety tips for parents

A number of parents have been in touch with us with questions about their child's safeguarding when using the internet. Please see information sheets below and follow the links on our website. If you have any further questions regarding e-safety please contact our safeguarding lead Ms Flindall E: r.flindall@arkelvinacademy.org

Top 5 Questions Parents Have About Snapchat

1. Why do kids love Snapchat?

They love the spontaneity of it. It's been (rightfully) drummed in their heads for years that photos you share are on the Web forever and are really hard to take back, so Snapchat's a relief in a lot of ways. It's playful and "in the moment" – a nice change from the self-presentation and reputation issues in social media services that display photos indefinitely. They don't have to worry about some invisible audience.

2. Does Snapchat have a minimum age?

Yes, it's 13, in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. But Snapchat doesn't ask users to specify their age so there are probably many younger children using the app. The service will delete underage accounts if they're notified and can verify the users are under 13.

3. What are the risks in using Snapchat?

Though there's nothing inherently dangerous about Snapchat, it's often referred to as "the sexting app." There's no research showing that to be true and plenty of anecdotal evidence that it isn't the focus for teens, but – like any photo-sharing service – Snapchat can be used for sexting, harassment, or worse. It can be particularly sad and hurtful if that happens, because Snapchat is typically used among friends (or at least people who have each other's user name or phone numbers). That's why we wrote this guide – to be sure young people and parents are aware of worst-case scenarios so they can be avoided.

4. Is it good that Snapchat photos disappear in seconds?

Yes, because photos aren't put on display, there's no stage, no following to develop, no posturing or "performance anxiety." The ephemeral aspect actually adds a measure of safety, as long as people don't develop a false sense of security about that – because photos can also be saved as screenshots or photographed with another phone and shared with or without the originator's knowledge. That can be good or bad – bad because a screen-captured photo can be used to embarrass the people in it, good because, if things do go wrong, it can be used for evidence against someone trying to hurt the people in it.

5. What's the best way to help kids stay safe in Snapchat?

As with all social media, respecting ourselves and others – in and out of technology and media – makes us safer. Whether the experience is positive or negative depends so much on how people use the app or service, whether or not they're really friends, and on how they treat each other in Snapchat. Friends may kid around with each other, but for the most part treat each other well. Most kids treat their friends well, but it never hurts to have a conversation (never a lecture) with them just to be sure. Use this guide for talking points, but the most important thing is that they know you have their back when things come up – that they can always come to you no matter what.

Top 5 Questions Parents Have About Instagram

1. Why do kids love Instagram?

For young people, Instagram is a photo-sharing app with a whole lot of emphasis on the sharing – more like photo-enhanced socializing. Like all users, teens have fun taking, enhancing, sharing, and commenting on photos. But they're not just commenting on photos, they're socializing with them. Photos are part of ongoing mixed-media conversations that include plenty of likes and links too.

2. Does Instagram have a minimum age?

Yes, it's 13, in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. But Instagram doesn't ask users to specify their age and there are many younger children who use the service, often with their parents' permission. Whether Instagram is "safe" depends more on how it's used than the age of the user, but Instagram will delete underage accounts if they're notified and can verify the users are under 13.

3. What are the risks in using Instagram?

Though there's nothing inherently dangerous about Instagram, the main things parents worry about are typical of all social media: mean behavior among peers and inappropriate photos that can hurt a child's reputation or attract the wrong kind of attention. Kids can learn to manage these risks, which is why we wrote this guide.

4. What's the best way to help kids stay safe in Instagram?

As with all social media, respecting ourselves and others makes us safer. Our posts and comments reflect on us and others in our photos. Whether serious or silly, they become part of our public image. Respecting others in how photos are shared, tagged and commented on reduces risk to self and others. While most kids are smart about this, it doesn't hurt for parents to be sure kids aren't posting provocative photos or having inappropriate interactions with people they don't know, which leads to the next question...

5. Should my child's profile be private?

For many kids, part of the fun of Instagram is developing a big following, so this is a good thing for parents and kids to talk about. Having a public account on Instagram means anyone can follow you. A private account does mean strangers can't follow your child so many parents have their kids start using Instagram with a private account for sharing only with friends and relatives. But even that doesn't guarantee your child won't be seen on Instagram or any other photo-sharing service, because people post photos of each other. Even not having an Instagram account can't ensure a child won't appear in a photo there. How positive or negative a young person's experience is on Instagram or anywhere online depends as much on the person and his or her friends as on the app.

Google How-to... Setup Google SafeSearch™

Google's SafeSearch™ filters give parents the ability to change their browser settings to prevent adult content from appearing in their children's search results.

Searching online is a popular activity among young people. Whether they're looking for information to support their hobbies and interests, researching their homework or simply trying to find the answer to a question that's been nagging them, Google™ is often their first port of call.

As a parent, you need to be aware that your son or daughter might come across inappropriate content during their online search – even if they're searching on a seemingly harmless keyword or subject.

The good news is that Google™ offers a SafeSearch™ feature, which helps you to keep adult content out of search results. SafeSearch™ screens web sites that contain sexually-explicit content and removes them from your search results.

Whilst no filter is 100% accurate, SafeSearch™ helps your children to avoid inappropriate content online.



Step 1

Got to www.google.com

Start typing a keyword in the search box and click 'Search'. The gear icon will appear on the right of the page. Click on the gear icon, then click on 'Search settings' in the drop down menu.

Alternatively, you can go to www.google.com/preferences to access Google SafeSearch™.

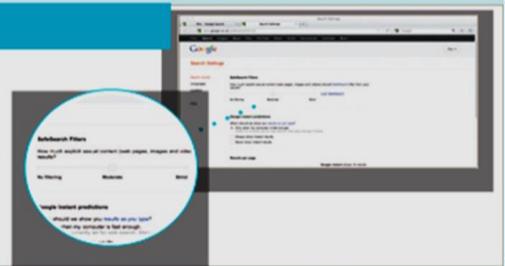


Step 2

Choose filter

On the Search Settings page choose the level of filter you would like activated on your family's computer.

'Strict filtering' filters both explicit text and explicit images while 'Moderate filtering' filters explicit images only (NS). 'Moderate' is the default filter setting on Google™.



Step 3

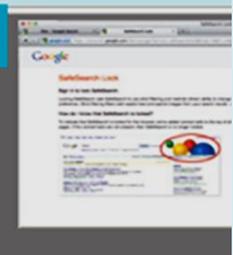
Lock SafeSearch™

If you have a Google™ account you can lock SafeSearch™ on your family's computer so that 'strict filtering' is always in place and no-one except you can change the settings.

If you're not already signed in to your Google™ account, you'll be asked to sign in. Once you're signed in, click on 'Lock SafeSearch™'.

It might take a moment for the filters to be applied to all Google™ domains. Once you see a confirmation page once the lock is engaged.

If you have more than one browser on your computer or if your family computer has more than one user profile, you'll need to set the lock on each one. When SafeSearch™ is locked in place, you'll see a set of coloured balls at the top of all search pages. If the coloured balls aren't there, SafeSearch™ is no longer locked. **Please note:** Google™ does its best to keep SafeSearch™ as up-to-date and comprehensive as possible, but inappropriate sites do sometimes get through.



activated on your computer and still find offensive content in your results, visit Google's Web page removal request page to let them know about the site or image you found.