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Important Information regarding Snapchat

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been advised today that Snapchat have added a new update which features a location tracker which could pose a risk to any pupil using this social media application.

The updates allow friends of the user to see exactly where they are on a location map. Many children tend to import all of their random contacts when they set up their Snapchat account. Hence, unless they check their settings it is possible that all of these random strangers will now see a location that is so accurate it would give a street address. As a **matter of urgency** we would ask all children/parents to check that Snapchat is changed to **Ghost Mode** so that location isn't shared with friends.

In order to activate Ghost Mode, please follow these instructions:-

- When turning on the app, click on the blue chat icon in bottom left hand corner. This will open the friends list.
- Pinch fingers inwards on the screen whilst looking at this page.
- This then shows you a world map with location enabled friends highlighted.
- Hit the big blue 'Next' button at the bottom of the screen
- Click on 'Only Me (Ghost Mode)

We are hoping this is easy for parents to follow but if you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that children under the age of 13 should not have a Snapchat account as the minimum age is 13, in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

Kind regards

Mrs Travers (Miss Smith)
Assistant Headteacher

