



Year 5 Newsletter



Year 5 Attendance: 96.6%

Whole School Attendance: 95.5%

The single biggest barrier to learning is low attendance, let's work together to ensure our children receive the education they deserve.

Dear Parents/Guardians

The children have thoroughly enjoyed Sports Week. We were incredibly impressed with the children's perseverance and teamwork shown during the biathlon event and on Sports Day. Thank you to all parents for your support this week.

English

We have been reading poetry related to the theme of 'Journeys.' We have explored how Robert Louis Stevenson uses meter and rhyme in his poem, 'From A Railway Carriage', and used our reading skills to work out the meaning of the poems, 'High Flight' by John Gillespie Magee Jr and 'Cargoes' by John Masefield. We will be experimenting with writing our own rhyming couplets and similes before writing our own poems about a journey of our choosing.

Spelling foci: alternative graphemes for the long /ai/ sound; the /oo/ sound spelt ew

Mathematics

The children have worked hard to consolidate their understanding of percentages by learning how to find percentages of amounts and tackled some challenging worded questions related to percentages in the context of discounts. We have also revised equivalence between fractions, decimals and percentages. Our attention will now turn to interpreting line graphs before revising formal methods for all four operations and applying them to solve multi-step problems.

Project

We have begun our science unit about forces. We started by revising what forces are in terms of pushes and pulls using everyday objects and explored gravity and the relationship between the mass of objects and their weight. We had great fun investigating air resistance by planning a fair test about whether the size of a parachute's canopy affects the speed at which it falls. We will move on to investigating friction and water resistance through further practical experiments before moving on to the ever fascinating unit about Earth and Space in which the children never cease to amaze us with their prior knowledge. In art, we have studied the style of Vincent Van Gogh using his painting, 'Starry Night' and Julie Perrot's paintings of planets. We have enjoyed using line and tone to draw Saturn and look forward to using acrylic paints and marbling to create artwork that is truly out-of-this-world.

Online Safety

- Read the advice on safe online habits on Tik Tok.

Dates for your diaries and important messages

- PE and Swimming - Wednesday
- Friday 26th June—Heritage Day
- Monday 6th July—Transfer day

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12–15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



See full reference list on our website

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