



Year 4 Newsletter



Year 4 Attendance: 96.2%

Whole School Attendance: 95.9%

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 multiplication checks are now complete, the children were enjoying seeing their progress on TTRS and are feeling proud of themselves. We are extremely proud of their hard work on this area of mathematics.

English

The children have been using some very high level vocabulary in English this week, they definitely are sounding like experts and are ready to write their letters to Iceland. We have been practising using adverbs to exaggerate our points as well as using cohesive phrases to make sure our writing flows. We are excited to share these with you at our showcase event at the end of term. Our spelling focus for the next two weeks is the etymology of Year 3/4 word list words and then looking at words from this word list that have unstressed vowels. We are also nearing the end of our 'Monster Must Read Challenge'. A big well done to all of the children who have worked hard to tick all of the different book challenges off of their list this year.

Mathematics

The children enjoyed their geometry unit, looking at different aspects of shape and finding area. They are moving onto a unit that looks at negative numbers, money, time and perimeter. As always, any support at home that can be given to helping your child tell the time is greatly appreciated, especially on an analogue clock.

Project

In geography, we have been learning about biomes. We went into the nature reserve to observe the biome in which we live. Next week, we will be evaluating what we have found and comparing it to Brazil answering the question, 'What would change in our school if we lived in a different biome?'. We will soon be moving onto sculpture in art. We will use the work of Dave Chihuly for inspiration, in keeping with our project theme 'Health'. He took inspiration from nature, particularly plants and the sea, using lots of patterns such as spirals that would naturally be found. He makes beautiful, large glass sculptures, some of which look similar to chandeliers. We are going to aim to make our own sculpture in each class, using decorated and cut plastic bottles.

Online Safety

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

Dates for your diaries and important messages

- PE and Swimming - Tuesday
- 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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