



FRIDAY UPDATE

Friday 1st December 2023



Thank you to all of you who attended our Christmas Craft sessions this week. Everyone seemed to have a super time and the decorations look fabulous in the school library. They will come home with the children at the end of term.

On Wednesday we held our first Tea and Natter event with Mrs Fowle and Mrs Lucas. This was a great success and it was lovely to see so many parents pop along to this. This will be repeated in the new year so please do come along if you can.

Thank you for all the contributions to our Christmas raffle prizes brought into school today. The colour themed hampers are going to be amazing. Keep purchasing those raffle tickets for a chance to win!

We hope everyone has had a chance to read the recent Christmas events newsletter. There is some VITAL information within this so please do read it carefully, particularly in relation to the pantomime visit next Friday. Have a wonderful weekend.

In celebration assembly today we said well done to the following children, who received **Special Awards** and special gold Headteacher's Award sticker:

Pranchal (Beech class) - for making such good progress since joining The Avenue.

Tiana (Hazel class) - for hard work, perseverance and independence in her maths work.

Harry (Maple class) - for participating well in circle time discussions about our senses, showing fantastic understanding.

Noor (Cherry class) - for always being a great role model, showing kindness and respect.

Jacob-Lee (Willow class) - for his listening skills this week.

Clark (Oak class) - for fantastic phonics.



Class Accolades

Hazel Class - Miss Morris is proud of your imaginative and creative ideas when inventing our story.

Beech Class - Mrs McCullough and Mrs Mason are impressed with your extra effort in taking responsibility.

Maple Class - Mrs Bolter and Miss Cooper are proud of your use of the maths toolkit this week.

Each class was presented with their Class Accolade certificate and earned two class ticks. Well done everyone!



LETTERS / EMAILS HOME THIS WEEK:

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

YEAR ONE PE CHANGE OF DAY LETTER

WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK (Autumn 2 Week 6):

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Monday 4th | - 3.15-4.30pm Cooking club
- Year 1 P.E. |
| Tuesday 5th | - |
| Wednesday 6th | - Flu immunisations
- Team to New Age Kurling competition
- Play & Perform club (Last one) |
| Thursday 7th | - Christmas Jumper Day - donations to Save the Children
- Kingswood Christmas lunch |
| Friday 8th | - Year 1 Family Reading - 8.50-9.10am
- Reception P.E.
- School trip to Pantomime at The Castle — please collect your child from The Castle at 3.10pm (see Christmas |





As part of our commitment to safeguarding, it is important that we ensure that parents/carers are as informed as possible about online safety.

What parents and carers need to know about TikTok

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a recent report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 10 to 19.

In the guide, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as age-inappropriate content, dangerous challenges and contact with

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TIKTOK

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

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people; compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 11 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app, it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'Blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

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#WakeUpWednesday

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