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Newsletter 09th September 2020

A Message from Miss Thomas:

Welcome back and a warm welcome to all our new families! I hope you all had a good break over the summer. It is wonderful to have the children back in school this last week – school feels like school again, full of children's voices, laughter and learning. Children in Years 1 to 6 are settling into the new routines well and it has been great getting to know our Nursery and Reception children through their 1 to 1 meetings and play sessions.

On Monday all of our Nursery children will start back and our Reception children will begin their staggered start. The EYFS staff are really looking forward to welcoming the children into their classes next week.

Teachers main focus with their class is firstly to make sure all children are happy and comfortable being back in school and then to find out what gaps have arisen over lockdown and plan how to catch children up to where they should be. This term we are having a whole school topic of 'Celebrations', the focus of this next week will be our Core Value of 'positivity' so please ask your child about this next week.

TD days 2020/2021

Tuesday 1st September 2020
Wednesday 2nd September 2020
Friday 2nd July 2021

2 TD days to be confirmed

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21 st October	Last Day of Term
31 st October	Secondary School place application deadline
2 nd November	First Day of Term 2

Attendance and Covid19:

Attendance has been good so far this term and where children have been poorly, parents have been in touch and sharing details promptly – thank you for this.

If your child or anyone in your household develops coronavirus symptoms, your child should not come to school. Also all members of your household should stay at home and self-isolate. The government have produced a document detailing what to do should someone in your household develop symptoms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The symptoms to look out for are:

- A high temperature (above 38 degrees)
- A new persistent cough
- A change to your sense of taste and/or smell

If anyone in your household does develop symptoms, please phone the office as soon as possible to let us know and keep us updated of any changes. You will also need to phone 111 or 119 who will help you with what to do. The person with symptoms will need to get a test and, until the result of the test is known, all members of the household will need to stay at home.

If we get notified of a positive test result, we will get in touch with Public Health England and they will advise us on the next steps.

Staffing Update:

This term we have some staff stepping into new roles and have also welcomed some new staff to our team:

Staff with a new role:

Miss Woffenden has stepped into the role of SENCO. Mrs Fulbrook will continue to be involved in a supportive role to Miss Woffenden as she is SEND Director for Acorn Education Trust. Miss Woffenden will be focussing on her SENCO role on a Thursday and Friday.

Miss Nash will be working as our new Behaviour Support Assistant (BSA). She will work across the school supporting children and staff with any issues relating to behaviour.

New Staff:

Miss Blake joins us as EYFS Leader and teacher of Canada Class (Nursery). Miss Blake is an experienced Early Years teacher and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her.

Miss Ward joins us from another Acorn School and will be teaching in Brazil Class (Reception). Miss Ward has made a great start, getting to know the families of the children she will be working with.

Miss Vaughan is the new teacher for France Class which is our new Resource Base Class created due to our agreed expansion. Miss Vaughan is an experienced teacher bringing her expertise from another local school.

Miss Lancaster joins us today as a TA working across the three Resource Base Classes (Fiji, France and Germany). I am sure Miss Lancaster will enjoy getting to know the children in those classes.

Drop off and Pick up:


Thank you all for your support with the new arrangements for drop off and pick up, we know there have been a lot of changes to get used to. As time goes on the arrangements are becoming smoother. The Upper School gate is working well and the Lower School gate was much improved at yesterday's pick up and this morning's drop off. Please remember to leave as soon as you have dropped your child off and only arrive once your child's drop off time has started.

Safeguarding Update:

We are aware that many of our older children are using TikTok. It has been brought to our attention that a video of a distressing nature where an adult attempts to take his own life is currently being shared via this social media platform. The age limit for TikTok is 13, but if your child is using it, please be vigilant and take measures to ensure your child is not able to access this content.

I have included some guidance from national online safety alongside this newsletter.

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



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION

12+

If under 18, supervision of a parent/legal guardian required.

What parents need to know about

TIKTOK

MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing other user's videos on the app.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities – social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS


As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents

#WakeUpWednesday

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make their account private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.

ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's a great way to help your child manage their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allowed time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 45 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be entered in order to turn on the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.

EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child as you could even search your inner performer and make videos with them (and more importantly) keeping them safe online.


LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allowed time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 45 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be entered in order to turn on the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.

Meet our expert



Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.

***NEW FOR 2020* FAMILY SAFETY MODE**

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to manage your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.

SOURCES: www.tiktok.com

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

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