



# LPS NEWS

February 2024

Welcome to our February newsletter, where we will share news, celebrations and diary dates for the month ahead.

## So far...

Following their Christmas festivities, the children have come back to school happily and ready to learn. Our Spring Term curriculum promises exciting and varied learning opportunities with the additional cultural capital programme that bring learning to life and that make our school such a fabulous place to be.

## Year 5 trip to London



We were beyond excited to be able to offer our Year 5 class an overnight residential trip to London. The children were incredible ambassadors for our school from the very moment they left until their return. Indeed the bus driver said that he had never had the pleasure of driving such a fabulous bunch of children and staff!

The children visited the Houses of Parliament and met our local MP, Angela Eagle who was happy to take part in an unscheduled Q and A! The children even invited her to Leasowe Leader lunch! Then came the Lion King musical on the West End, before bed on the first day.

Day 2 saw a visit to the Natural History Museum before home. Well done to our amazing children and special thanks to the staff who went along to look after them. A great time was had by all, and wonderful memories made.

## Attendance

Attendance continues to be a high priority focus for the school. Each Monday we hold a designated attendance assembly, where the highest attending classes are celebrated and rewarded with a treat for playtime! Our weekly attendance target for the whole school is 97%.

Regular attendance at school avoids missed learning, supports friendships and raises attainment. We are a way off our target yet and ask for your support in improving what is a crucial element of your child's education. The attendance champions will be celebrated on our FB page and on our class Dojo pages too.



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Well done to this fabulous group, who gained 100% attendance during the Autumn Term and all received a gift voucher to spend on Amazon.



New for this term is the weekly raffle ticket for all children who have attendance of 98% and above. Raffle tickets will be drawn at the end of each term and a special prize will be received by the winner.

## Online safety

Unfortunately, over Christmas we were made aware of a small number of children who were involved in unkind exchanges online. We work hard to address these issues at school and appreciate parents support in regular monitoring of their children's online activity. At the start of February, we will be holding an online safety week, and will be inviting parents in to take part in workshops with their children to develop knowledge and understanding of online safety. We hope that as many of you as possible will join us. Details will follow on Dojo.

## Diary Dates

23.1.24 Parent workshop- Supporting your child with Reading with Sue Calverley

23.1.24 Chess Club after School

w/c 5.2.24 Internet Safety Week

Thank you all for your continued support

Your LPS Team

*We are proud of our school, and the entire staff team are dedicated to supporting the education and emotional wellbeing of every child and family in our care. Verbal abuse of staff will not be tolerated under any circumstances.*

#theskyisthelimit

#includeandbeincluded

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](http://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.



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 overly 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 others 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

## 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 discussion 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 sure their account is set to 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 stardom, 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 the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.

## EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then 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 also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (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 allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed 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.



SOURCES: