

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### May

**Thur 2<sup>nd</sup>** – School is Polling Station but OPEN

**Wk beginning Mon 13<sup>th</sup> - SATs week for Y6**

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup>** – Year 6 Bubble Footie Treat Day

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup>** – Break up for half term

### June

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> – Inset Day, school closed to pupils**

**Mon 10<sup>th</sup>** – Reception & Y6 hearing & vision checks

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup>** – Reception trip to Whitby Park

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup>** – 9am Reception Father's Day / Significant

Males event in the hall - **Afternoon: Sports Day**

**(Rec to Y6)** – No Celebration Assemblies

**Tue 18<sup>th</sup> & Wed 19<sup>th</sup>** – KSI classes to Wirral Way

**Tue 18<sup>th</sup> & Wed 19<sup>th</sup>** – Parents Evenings for Y1-5

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup>** – Back up Sports Day in the afternoon

**Thur 27<sup>th</sup>** – Butterflies Trip

### July

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup>** – The Whitby High School Transition Day

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thur 4<sup>th</sup>** – Y6 Transition Days TEPCEC

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thur 4<sup>th</sup>** – Year 2 to Tattenhall

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> – Fri 12<sup>th</sup>** – Year 6 to Min-y-Don

**Thur 11<sup>th</sup>** – Year 5 to Primary College

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup>** – Reception & Year 6 Reports go home

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup>** – PM & Evening performances for Y6

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Whole School Moving Up Day!

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup>** - 2pm Y6 Leaver's Assembly

3:15pm BREAK UP FOR SUMMER!

Residential Deposits

*(Deadline for Min-y-Don payment in full: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024)*

*(Deadline for Tattenhall payment in full: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024)*

## ASK ME ABOUT...

Education is most effective when schools and parents work in partnership. So, this week;

Caterpillars: *planting seeds*

Butterflies: *what do seeds need to grow*

Reception: *Wow! Said the owl*

1Mc: *O'clock and half past*

1/2T: *the first man on the moon*

2M: *the life stages of a human*

3U: *Asylum Seekers*

3/4T: *similes*

4G: *the life stages of a human*

5I: *Earth Day & what we'll change in our way of life*

5/6K: *Earth Day & how we can help our planet*

6T: *how to measure angles using a protractor*

## POLLING DAY THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May (next week), school will be a Polling Station, as we always are when there is an election.

School remains OPEN TO ALL PUPILS on this day, but children do have to eat lunch in their classrooms for the day and therefore only packed lunch options are available.

Please book lunch for this day on School Hub, as you normally would, but note that it will need to be a packed lunch option only. Thank you.

## FOOTBALL SUPERSTARS

On Thursday afternoon our KSI boys played in an Everton Football competition. They made us very proud with super teamwork, lots of goals and even more smiles! They came third in their group and impressed everyone watching, even the football scouts! #TeamAcorns

# 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-16 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.

18  
CENSORED

### 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.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (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.

### 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.

## 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.



NOS  
National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday