

Headlines

The children have had a non-uniform day, so the classes have been looking particularly colourful. Contributions to the class gift hampers and bottle tombola have been gratefully received. All offers of help for the PSA Winterfest next Saturday 3rd are also appreciated so please do speak to your class reps or Leanne, our PSA Chair, if you have not already said that you can help for some time on that day, but you feel that you can. We are really looking forward to this day – the first one since 2019.

Our final class assembly this term was with Year 5 this morning. They have been learning about planets and the solar system in Science and they set themselves as travel agents to encourage holidaymakers to these destinations in our galaxy! Well done to Mrs Gawn and the class for putting this together this week.

Another special event this week was our Music Concert on Tuesday. Although this was a concert mainly for the soloists, we were also treated to a performance of Christmas songs from our ever-expanding orchestra. I was so impressed by the self confidence and talent of the performers – it was lovely to see; and such a range of instruments and abilities too. To make it extra special, we had a fantastic cameo performance at the end from Year 7 music scholar, Kim (sister to Minh), who came back to visit us and played a beautiful piece. Huge thanks to Miss Andrews for putting the evening together and encouraging the children and the accompaniment from Miss Cotton too. There are just a few photos below of the evening.

Coming up next week, we have a pantomime show for Nursery to Year 3 on Tuesday. As rehearsals step up for festive performances, we also have drama club mini shows next Thursday. Our KS1 Christmas performances will take place for parents and families next Thursday and Friday afternoons. We look forward to seeing many of you coming to join us then. I am sure we will all be truly in festive mood by then!

Mr Leigh Hardie, Head

Stars of the Week



Squirrels – Leia

Woodpeckers – Bebe

Owls – Bubbles

Ash – Alayna

Maple – Jack

Birch – Serenity

Oak – Maya

Music – Jemima

Sport – Dylan, Annabel Swimming – Ryan

LAMDA – Elise, Bubbles

House winners

Nelson



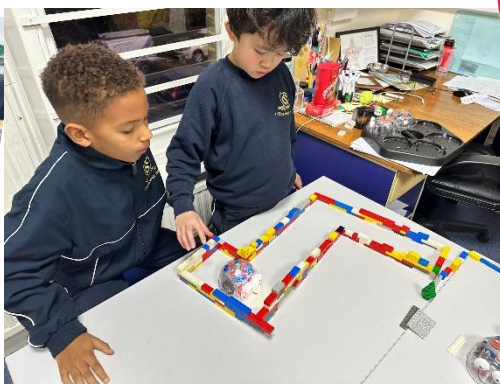
A leaf on our tree



Year 5 assembly



Bee Bot maps in Year 1 and 2 and Robotics Club



Year 2 build habitats



Friends together at the woods



Rugby skills practice ahead of tournament



Collingwood orchestra in action



Music Concert selection



Star badges this week...

10 stars to:

Annabelle, Kayla, Rowan, Mila, Mitchell, Maxi, Liam, Reece, Jayden, Evyahn, Leo, Charlie, Jessica, Moses, Annabel

Dates for diaries (updates in red)

Tuesday 29th November - Pantomime in school for Nursery to Year 3

Tuesday 29th November – ILG Touch Rugby fixture

Thursday 1st December – Drama class assemblies (8.50am)

Thursday 1st December – Drama Club Christmas show (4pm)

Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd December – KS1 Christmas production (2.30pm)

Saturday 3rd December – PSA Winterfest

Tuesday 6th December – Christmas Jumper day and Lunch

Wednesday 7th December – U11 Oakwood football tournament

Thursday 8th December – Christmas Carol Service (**4.30pm**)

Friday 9th December – Final day of school term (midday close)

Tuesday 3rd January – Staff INSET day

Wednesday 4th January – First day of Spring Term 2022



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

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.

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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-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.

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

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

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.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday