Weston Point Community Primary School May 2021

Classes 2021 – 2022

Reception   Miss Wilkes Mrs Goodier (3 days)   Miss Jones (2 days)

Year 1 Mr Pierce   Mrs Hartley

Year 2 Miss Pickston   Mrs Poynton

Year 3 Miss Fothergill Mrs Willcox   4 days

 Year 4 Miss Burgess Miss Jones 3 days

Year 5 Miss Hansbury Mrs Hansbury (pm)

Year 6 Mr Paul Mrs Hansbury (am)

We have recently had some concerns around our children using an app called TikTok. TikTok is a video sharing app. Users can upload and share short videos of themselves lipsyncing to songs or acting out comedy sketches, and add special effects. They can gain followers ('fans') and browse other people's videos. You may have heard of the app by its previous name: Musical.ly. Everything that was on the Musical.ly is now on TikTok. If your child previously had a Musical.ly account, they will be able to access their content on TikTok.

The age recommendation for TikTok is 13 and above. However, you do not have to prove your age when creating an account, so youngest children can still use it easily. It is most popular with under-16s.

Parents' Guide to Online Safety

Whether we like it or not, technology and the Internet are firmly fixed in our children's lives. Use of the Internet can be a wonderful thing, opening up new worlds and supporting children's learning and development in many ways, as well as being a fun way to relax and keep in touch with friends. However, we are all aware of the pitfalls and dangers of the online community, and since most of the current generation of parents grew up in the days before smartphones, we can feel a little clueless as to how best to protect our children. Here are some ideas which will support your primary school child's safety and well-being online.

• **Set up parental controls on your home broadband and all Internet-enabled devices your child has access to.**

- **Password-protect all accounts.**

- **Choose the sites your child has access to on their account.**

- **Make sure your child is using child-safe search engines, such as Swiggle or KidzSearch, and activate 'safe search' options on other search engines such as Google and Youtube.**

- **Switch devices to airplane mode when your child is playing online games. This will prevent them from accidentally making in-app purchases or contacting other players online.**

- **Pay close attention to the age ratings on games, apps and films to make sure they are suitable for your child. If you would not allow your child to watch a 15 certificate film, you should not let them play a game with the same rating.**

- **Set your homepage to a child-friendly one.**

- **Keep all devices your child will use, in a high-traffic communal area in your home, such as the kitchen or living room. Be with your child when they are online and talk about what they are doing.**

- **Set rules for screen time and stick to them.**

- **Investigate safe social media sites for kids.**

- **Sometimes children find themselves bullying or being bullied online (also known as 'cyberbullying'). Talk to your child about being a good friend online, and how our words and actions still hurt even if we can't see a person's reaction to them.**

- **Talk regularly about the importance of online safety, and about what your child is getting up to online. You'll be grateful you did this, especially as your child gets older. Keeping those lines of communication open is a powerful way of letting your child know that you trust them but expect them to be honest.**

Research shows that the age at which children are accessing smart devices and the Internet is getting younger and younger. It's never too soon to start good eSafety habits with your child.

Mental Health Awareness Week.

For Mental Health Awareness Week this year, everyone was invited to **Connect With Nature**.
Evidence shows that nature is good for our mental health.
Connecting with nature can help prevent mental health issues.

The benefits of nature have never been more evident than during the pandemic, when 45% of us reported that being in green space has been vital for our mental health.
This Mental Health Awareness Week, we are celebrating the great out-doors. Photographs to follow.

Dates for your Diary - Please be aware these events are subject to change re Corvid restrictions at the time.

May

Week Beginning 24th May

Year 6 Assessment week

Fri 28th Year 6 End of Assessment top table lunch and class party

       Break up for Whit holiday

June

Mon 7th School Closed for children (staff training day)

Tues 8th School Closed for children (staff training day)

Wed 9th School Re opens for children (normal bubble times)

Week Beginning Mon 28th Transition week (all children move to their new classes)

New Reception induction week

July

Tues 6th Race for life

Fri 9th July End of year Reports to parents

Week Beginning 12th Book Fair

Tues 13th Reception and Key Stage 1 sports day 10 AM

Wed 14th Key Stage 2 Sports day 10 AM

Wed 21st Whole School Leavers Assembly and Awards 9.15 am

Thurs 22nd Leavers Assembly for year 6 parents 9.15

School Closes for summer holiday at 12 noon

WESTON POINT C.P. SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS 2021 - 2022

Autumn Term starts	**Wednesday, 1 September 2021**
School closes for half term	**Friday 22 October 2021**
INSET – school closed	**Monday, 1 November 2021**
Back to School	**Tuesday, 2 November 2021**
School closes for Christmas	**Tuesday, 21 December 2021**
INSET – school closed	**Thursday, 22 December 2021**
Back to school	**Wednesday, 5 January 2022**
School closes for half term	**Friday 18 February 2022**
INSET – school closed	**Monday, 28 February 2022**
Back to school	**Tuesday, 1 March 2022**
School closes for Spring break	**Friday, 1 April 2022**
Back to School	**Tuesday, 19 April 2022**
School closed for May day	**Monday, 2 May 2022**
Back to School	**Tuesday, 3 May 2022**
School closes for Whit	**Friday 27 May 2022**
INSET – school closed	**Monday, 6 June 2022**
INSET – school closed	**Tuesday, 7 June 2022**
Back to School	**Wednesday, 8 June 2022**
School closes for Summer	**Thursday, 20 July 2022**

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 app 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 which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around 800 million active users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION

12+

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

What parents need to know about

TIKTOK

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – so it is possible for a child to be exposed to explicit and age-inappropriate content.

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and want to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.

HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep you intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP PURCHASES

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. Buying coins is now restricted to over-18s – but TikTok doesn't require users to verify their age on sign up, so a young person could easily access this feature if they were determined to.

National Online Safety — NOS
#WakeUpWednesday

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

In early 2021, TikTok changed the default setting for all under 16s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY SAFETY MODE

'Family Safety Mode' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content.

USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

Meet our expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.