



# Newsletter

Friday 24th January 2025

## Next Week

Monday	Y4, Y5 & Y6 Judo Taster Session
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	Y2 Multiskills Festival
Friday	KS2 Panathlon

## Attendance



**1st Place - Class 6 - 98.7%**

**2nd Place - Class 4 - 96.3%**

**3rd Place - Class 1 - 96%**

Please continue to promote good attendance.

We are trying to ensure all children are in and ready to learn before we close the gates at 9:00am.



**Whole School Attendance:**



**94.9%**



## Key dates this half term

Monday 20th January	Y4, Y5 & Y6 Judo Taster Session
Thursday 6th February	Y3 Trip Stump Cross Caverns
Monday 10th February	1p Book Fair
Thursday 13th February	Sports for Champions Athlete in school
Thursday 13th February	Y4 River Bus
Friday 14th February	Disco

## Forest School

**Monday 20th January: Year 3**

**Thursday 23th January: Year 4**

Please make sure children wear their uniform everyday.





## House Points Total



Purple  
Amethysts  
Points

311

Red  
Rubies  
Points

336

Green  
Emeralds  
Points

418

Blue  
Sapphires  
Points

334

Yellow  
Diamonds  
Points

382



## Merit Points



100 merits: Eva W, Elliott D,  
Skyla-May T, Leo E, Kayden S,  
Lauchlan E-B,

200 merits: Grace D

400 merits: Ella-Rose J, Mia H,  
Harmony T

700 merits: Jayden-James O

900 merits: Archie H

1000 merits: Ava K

1100 merits: Spencer A

1500 merits: Theo-James P,  
Cameron W

1700 merits: Robbie B



'I have a positive  
attitude'



Y6. Eloijah T



Y5. Taylor B



Y4. Elsie H



Y3. Lilly'Rose T



Y2. Eden C



Y1. Austin H



FS2. Lauchlan E-B





# Safeguarding spotlight:

## Advice about TikTok

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

13+

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

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

#### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, for you is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

#### BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

#### IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £3.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

#### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

#### MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

#### ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young teens. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

#### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they've worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

#### BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

#### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.