



EBOR GARDENS
Primary Academy

WEEKLY NEWS

A message from Mrs Wathen & Mr Spink.....

Good afternoon everyone. We have enjoyed a fun week at school this week as everyone has settled back into their routines after the Christmas break.

On Thursday we had our school photo day. The children arrived at school very smart to pose for their family and individual photographs. The day ran smoothly and the children looked fantastic as usual. In Early Years, Mr Owens hosted a Community Guided Reading Workshop for parents of Early Years children. He is hoping even more people will attend to help support their children on their reading journey. *The Community Guided Reading Sessions for Early Years parents are every Thursday straight after school in the Early Years base.* Also this week, we have welcomed lots of new starters to Ebor Gardens. It is a joy to welcome new families into our community and see the children here at Ebor Gardens helping new friends settle in to their new school and routines. On the last page of this week's newsletter, we have included some parent guidance on the use of TikTok. Please can all parents take the time to read this very useful information. **Lastly, whole school attendance this week is 96% - this is amazing!**

Have a lovely weekend everyone. See you all on Monday morning.

Attendance Matters


Whole school attendance is **96%** this week—*this is fantastic!*

Remember we are aiming for **96%** or above.

Our Biscuit Bears are going to **1FA** and **3NB** for the **best attendance** this week.

1FA have won *another* Pizza Party for **100% attendance** this week.

1FA, 2HW, 2NI, 3NB, 4RM, 5HW, 6CH and 6NP have won an extra playtime for attendance **over 97%** this week.

N— 93%	Rec 1— 90%	Rec 2— 93%	1HM— 95%	1FA— 100%	2HW— 99%	2NI— 99%	3NB— 99%
3JH— 94%	4LB— 93%	4RM— 97%	5HW— 98%	5GA— 96%	6NP— 97%	6CH— 97%	



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Friday 13th January 2023 - Issue 16



News and Events this half term.....

Dates for your diary—Spring Term

Thursday 9th February 2023—

School closes for half term

Monday 20th February 2023—

School reopens after half term

Thursday 2nd March 2023—

World Book Day



Ready for Winter?

As the Winter progresses, please be sure that your child has adequate warm clothing when they come to school. Also, coats, scarves, hats and gloves will help them to keep warm when we go into the playground at breaktimes. If you need, we have a Uniform Exchange where we can give-out good quality uniform (including some coats and outdoor PE kit) with no cost to you. Please ask your Miss Dooley or your class teacher if you would like to access the Uniform Exchange.

(More information will follow regarding this scheme...)



Group A streptococcus: tonsillitis, scarlet fever and impetigo

As is typical for this time of year, we currently have a few cases of the above illnesses in our children, across especially our younger year groups. Understandably, if you are following the news at the moment, many parents are concerned about their child's health where serious illness and even death are being attributed to Group A streptococcus (Strep A). Group A streptococcus (GAS), is a common bacteria which causes a number of infections common in children – including tonsillitis, scarlet fever and impetigo. As we all know, children typically get well from these infections within days of falling ill, but in rare cases the infection can become more serious. **We obviously want to ensure everyone is safe and well, so are asking parents to follow the guidance below:**

If your child is unwell with symptoms associated with Strep A (high temperature, a sore throat and swollen neck glands) please keep them at home until they are well

Seek medical advice from your GP, in case your child needs antibiotics to recover

Tell us if your child has been confirmed as a Group A streptococcus infection, so that we can report any rise in cases to the Local Health Protection Team.



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Certificate winners this week...



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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-18 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 like-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.



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 from 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 £3.33 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 birthday.

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 63 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.



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National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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