

SMUPS News

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Friday 23rd February 2024

Hello from the Head

What a great first week back after half term and a really brilliant way to start the second half of the school year. It was lovely to hear all about the positive learning this morning in our Certificate assembly. We had winners who had demonstrated great effort and learning across a range of subjects—from swimming to computing, history to maths and art to English.

This term is already flying by and it is only five weeks until Easter, but there is lots to pack into this half term and the promise of some better weather (although this week it has felt a long way off!) On Monday next week, year three will be visiting Kents Kavern, near Torquay as part of their history and science learning. This week, years one and four (Beech) visited Eastleigh care homes. The children were a real credit to themselves and the school.

In school, year six have been busy programming and debugging the new Micro:bit computers and building their skills. Year One have been starting their programming journey by using the BeeBots and learning how to give them instructions.

Year Five have been starting a new maths unit on multiplication and division and it is great to see their growing confidence in using prior learning. Year Six have started this half term by writing their own C.V. and starting to write their autobiographies.

World book day theme: bedtime stories. Children are invited to wear their pyjamas / onesies. If you wish to dress as a book character, please do so, but we don't want you to go to any expense.

Collective Worship

This week, we have begun our half term theme of forgiveness and also looked at Lent and what this means to Christians.

Things to Remember

- Please do not park on the school site at normal pick up and drop off times. The safety of the children and pedestrians is paramount. Please park carefully and considerately on the roads near to the school and use the pedestrian path. We only have parking for blue badge holders.
- Swimming is on Tuesdays for Year 2 and Year 5 (ASH and WILLOW class). Please make sure that your child has their swimming kit for Tuesdays.
 - Please make sure that your child has suitable clothing for the weather conditions.
 - Please ensure that your child is completing their home learning each week.

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CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Each week, we celebrate brilliant learning in our celebration assembly.

We give out certificates for Resilience, Resourcefulness,
Relationships, Risk and Reflectiveness as these are our

Building Learning Powers.

ACORNS: Poppy & Hallie

OAK: Henry & Amelia

ASH: Amelia & Bodhi

PINE: Freddie & Jessica-May

BEECH: Nora & William

HOLLY: Jack

WILLOW: Angel & Sophie

ELM: William & Paige

Well done to Lily B, Alfie L, Curtis, Isla S and Jimmy for earning their 100,000 words certificate on Accelerated Reader

Well done to Lily G for earning her 250,000 words certificates on Accelerated Reader.

Well done to Arale and Isabelle Stanley for earning their 500,000 word certificates.

Well done to Cobo in year 6 for becoming our second word millionaire this year.

Well done to Steve, Freddie, Maylah, Isabelle S, William H, Greg, Eliza F, Sera, Joe R and Cobo for being this weeks TTRS winners.

Well done to Zander, Elyssia, Elsie and Oliver for being this weeks Numbots winners.

Dates for your diaries

Monday 26th February: Year 3 Kents Kavern Trip

Tuesday 5th March: Year 1 trip to Barnstaple Museum

Thursday 7th March: World Book Day—bedtime stories theme

Monday 11th March: Holly and Pine visiting Eastleigh 1:30-2:15pm

PARENT CONSULTATIONS: 3:15-5:30PM

Thursday 14th March: PARENT CONSULTATIONS: 3:15-5:30PM

Wednesday 27th March – PM PTFA Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday 28th March: Last Day of Term and Year 6 and Reception Weigh and Measure

Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April: EASTER HOLIDAYS

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

media platform

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-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 birthday.

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 10 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 cannot 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

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