



Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to wish you all a warm welcome back following the half term break! The children have settled back in fantastically during the last two weeks and I continue to be immensely proud of their fantastic efforts in school. I continue to have the pleasure of seeing some incredible work each day from across the school. This week I've had lots of amazing writing brought to me; some were so



good that I had to give out some of my highly sort after 'Headteacher Award Stickers'!



This week we also paused to remember those who have lost their lives in service of our Armed Forces. All children and staff observed a two minute silence within their class 'bubbles' whilst 'The Last Post' played. Classes also took part in a variety of different activities across the week, all related to the theme Remembrance.



Chris Heathcote

Headteacher

Covid-19 Survey

Firstly, thank you to all of you who took the time to complete our Covid-19 survey which was sent out via text message/ the E-School app. We've had over 100 responses which is a record for our school surveys! We will look to continue sending our surveys in this way in the future.

Secondly, thank you for your overwhelming positive responses! The school has worked incredibly hard to

manage the impact of Covid-19 on the school community and the children's education. I am pleased to see that as Parents/ Carers you are fully supportive of the ways in which we have managed the pandemic.

I recognise that the area in which we can improve most is how we provided educational support during the last lockdown. We knew at the start of the year that this was an area of development for us and as such have been working hard to improve our remote learning offer:

https://isaacnewton.eschools.co.uk/website/remote_learning_plan/512416.

We hope that we have improved in this area and can now provide all children with appropriate learning whilst they are at home through Microsoft Teams. Please ensure that you continue to provide us with feedback about how you are finding this and if you do need support with remote learning please do not hesitate to get in touch with us!

Youth Sport Trust Online Club

Every weekday at 5pm until the end of term (18 December), the Youth Sport Trust are running a 30-minute online club for all children and young people to do some sport, develop skills and, most importantly, have fun! More information can be found by following the link below. This includes a link to their YouTube channel:

<https://www.youthsporttrust.org/AfterSchoolSportClub>

Applying for a place in Reception next year

Children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 are due to start Reception in September 2021. Don't forget that the window for applying for a place in Reception opens on Monday 16th November. If your child is 4 this school year (September 1 to August 31) then you need to apply for a place through Lincolnshire County Council. **You still need to apply even if you already have another child at this school!** Further information can be found on our school website, including a link to the admissions portal:

https://isaacnewton.eschools.co.uk/website/eyfs_new_intake_2021/514636.

School Exit (Side Gate)

Please can all members of the school community ensure that the exit to our one way system is kept clear- this is the gate that goes out onto Warmington Avenue. If you are waiting for your child to exit school grounds then please do so on the grassed area or at the end of the path. This is for the safety of yourselves and others and ensures that everyone is able to keep 2m social distancing at all times. **No one should enter the school grounds via this gate due to the one way system**, they are to be entered by the main gate only. Thank you for your continued support.

E-Schools

Please can we ask all Parents/ Carers to download the E-Schools app so that we can keep you updated and informed at all times about things in school! If



you do not know your login details then please contact the school office or email enquiries@isaacnewton-cit.co.uk.

Further information about how to get set up can also be found on our school website.

https://isaacnewton.eschools.co.uk/website/eschools_app_-_parents_help/499102

Remote Learning

We are now uploading work onto Microsoft Teams each day for children to complete at home if they are isolating due to Covid-19. All children now have a login and password and these are stuck into their reading journals. We have also sent out individual letters last half term.

A copy of our remote learning plan can be found on our school website:

https://isaacnewton.eschools.co.uk/website/remote_learning_plan/512416.

A 'Parent/ Carer Guide has also been created and this has been sent out to Parents/ Carers via the E-Schools app. It is also available on the school website:

https://isaacnewton.eschools.co.uk/website/microsoft_teams_guide_for_pupils_parents/512426.

If you do not have access to a suitable device (laptop or tablet), enough devices for your children or an internet connection then you will need to inform the school of this when your child is told to isolate. We will then try to support you with this. **It is an expectation that children fully access ALL remote learning whilst isolating at home.**

School Field Path (Matting)

We have now extended a barrier across from the edge of the basketball court up to the side of the path (matting) which drops down onto the carpark. Please can all members of the school community ensure that they are going down on the path (matting) rather than the grass bank. This is for your own safety because as the weather becomes wetter, the bank will become muddy and therefore slippery if people are walking down it. The matting we have purchased is anti-slip and especially designed for the purpose that we are using it for. Thank you for your support.

Parents' Evenings

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we will be unable to hold face-to-face Parents' Evenings this term. Instead we will be sending home a short, one page report next week. On the form there will be the option for you to request a telephone appointment with your child's class teacher and these will be arranged as soon as possible following your request.

Ollee- Digital Friend App

Ollee is a digital friend for children aged 8-11, created by Parent Zone and funded by BBC Children in Need's A Million & Me initiative, which aims to make a difference to children's emotional wellbeing.

It's designed to help children reflect on how they feel and to process their experiences with the support and help of their parents and carers – and it does this by offering them advice about a range of subjects: school, family, friends, their body, the internet and the world.

A link to the app can be found on our school website:

<https://app.ollee.org.uk/#/welcome>.

Further information for Parents/ Carers about 'Ollee' can be found at the following link:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/introducing-ollee>.

School Term Dates:

Term 1: Thursday 3rd September 2020 – Thursday 22nd October 2020

Term 2: Monday 2nd November 2020 - Thursday 17th December 2020

Bank Holidays: Friday 25th & Monday 28th December 2020,
Friday 1st January 2021

Term 3: Monday 4th January 2021 - Friday 12th February 2021

Term 4: Monday 22nd February 2021 - Wednesday 31st March 2021

Bank Holidays: Good Friday 2nd April & Easter Monday 5th April 2021

Term 5: Monday 19th April 2021 - Friday 28th May 2021

Bank Holidays: Monday 3rd May & Monday 31st May 2021

Term 6: Monday 7th June 2021 - Wednesday 21st July 2021



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. Its main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up to the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are light-hearted or designed to make people laugh. However there have been a number of videos reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and young teens engaging in sexually suggestive content. More recently, suicide-themed related videos have been widely circulated. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be common to come across explicit and age-inappropriate content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.



INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others' videos on the app.



TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities – social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.



ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their email is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.



IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use TikTok, make sure you take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have an open dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Even if it doesn't make you popular, keep a close eye on what your child is viewing and sharing on TikTok. Whilst the app has moderation tools, videos can still slip through the net so it's important to regularly check in on what they're watching. Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with it. You could then even watch some videos with your child, turning it into a bonding opportunity also.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a relatively safe space for your child to express themselves. However, in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.



SOURCES: www.tiktok.com