



## **NEWSLETTER**

**17th January 2025**

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# Principal's Message

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Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday season. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school, and I'm pleased to report that we've had an excellent start to the Spring Term. During my first two assemblies this term I have shared with the children 'making good choices' and 'confidence'. I shared and discussed Henry Ford's quote "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you are right."

The first two weeks have flown by, with pupils settling back into their routines and embracing their learning with enthusiasm. It's always a delight to see their energy and engagement in the classrooms. We have welcomed four new pupils this term too.

As we look ahead, we have an exciting term planned, with many opportunities for the children to learn, grow, and explore. Please keep an eye out for updates and key dates in our upcoming communications. Remember you have the second set of parent consultations on the 2nd and 3rd of April too.

The weather has certainly made its presence felt, with chilly and icy conditions these past weeks. Thank you for ensuring the children are well-prepared for the cold, and we encourage everyone to take extra care on their way to and from school. Some of our staff, who travel a fair distance to school, have seen car accidents on their travels so please be careful when out and about. Road safety is especially prevalent in winter time.

Take care all,

Mr Burden.

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# Headteacher Award

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10th January 2025



17th January 2025

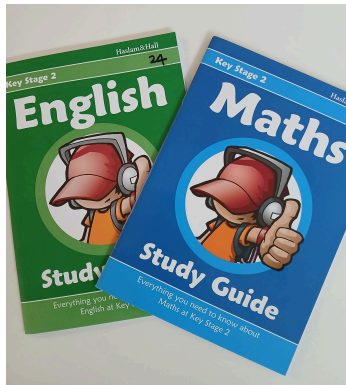


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# Curriculum

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As we settle into the Spring Term, we are delighted to share some updates about our curriculum and the exciting opportunities ahead for our pupils.



## Year 6 Revision Guides

Our Year 6 pupils have received new revision guides for Maths and English to help them prepare for the upcoming SATs. These resources are tailored to support their learning and provide focused practice as they build their confidence. We encourage parents to explore these guides with their children and reach out to teachers if you have any questions about how best to use them as they count down to SATs week in May.

## New Topics Across the School

We've introduced engaging new topics across all year groups:

- **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):** Theme - Exploration and Power - our youngest learners are exploring the world reading many texts from different places around the world.
- **Key Stage 1 (KS1):** Themes - Power, for example learning about monarchs (history focus), they will also focus on the value of right and wrong.
- **Lower Key Stage 2 (LKS2):** Themes - Care and Conservation, Health and WellBeing. In history they will learn about the Anglo Saxons and the Scots.
- **Upper Key Stage 2 (UKS2):** Themes - Leadership / Power / Identity and Diversity. Their history topic is World War II.
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## School Clubs Are Back

We're thrilled to see our school clubs up and running again, offering children a wide range of extracurricular activities to enjoy. From sports and arts to academic enrichment, there's something for everyone. If your child is interested in joining a club, please contact the school office for more information about availability.

We're excited about the term ahead and are committed to making this a rewarding and inspiring time for all our pupils. Thank you for your continued support.

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# School Games

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School clubs have started again this week. Football, dodgeball, running and gymnastics have started. Sadly the sign-ups for tag rugby were too low to run the club. Mr Burden will organise an athletics club in the summer term in the same time slot. In the meantime, that slot will be given to Y6 children for a homework / revision club.

Today some of our KS2 children represented the school in a swimming gala competition - more news and photos in the next newsletter.

# Attendance

Class winners for this week:

Week	Class	% Attendance	98% +
Week 15 6/1/25 - 10/1/25 (4 days)	Mercury Pluto Mars	100 100 100	Mercury / Pluto /Mars Jupiter / Saturn
Week 16 13/1/25 - 17/1/25 (5 days)	Saturn	99.63	Saturn and Neptune

Whole school attendance stands at 94.55%

For the spring term only it stands at 96.08%

No one attended the drop in session with Mr Burden on 10/1/25 to discuss attendance but if you have a question about the letter that was sent in December please contact the school.

Gate closing after school - members of the after school team are asked to close and lock the gate each day but are finding this difficult as very often parents may still be on the playground either talking to each other or to staff. For better Safeguarding procedures we will close and lock the gate at 15:25. If you are still on site a member of staff will walk you to the office exit. Thanks for your understanding.



**Essex County Council Education**

**GOOD TIMEKEEPING**

**What to do the night before:**

- Get everything you need for school ready
- Set your alarm allowing plenty of time
- Make your lunch and drink if you bring a packed lunch to school
- Turn off devices half an hour before bedtime
- Have a good night's sleep - a minimum of eight hours!


**Five minutes late per day soon adds up to three days of lost school time**

**For mental health support for young people visit: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)**



# TikTok Safety

Please read the leaflet below on how to keep your child safe whilst using TikTok. This is also available on our [website](#) along with safety information for other platforms children may use.



**TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's 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 to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.**

AGE RESTRICTION

12+

A under 11, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.

What parents need to know about

# TIKTOK

MATURE 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 for 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 lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young boys dressed overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit 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 user's 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 account 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 get 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 £92.99 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 DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. 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.

EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unmesh your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.

LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT


With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just 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 Bath is a writer with over 30+ 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.



\*NEW FOR 2020\* 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 messaging (even 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

www.nationalonlinesafety.com   Twitter: @natonlinesafety   Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety   Instagram: @NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.02.2020

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# Important Dates for Spring Term

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Key dates for the whole academic year can be found on the [website](#).  
Please check back regularly, as these dates can be subject to change.

FFG Cake Sale (Sun & Mars) - 29th January (15:15)

FFG Valentines Neon Disco - 12th February (15:45-16:45 EYFS & 17:00-18:00 LKS2)

FFG Valentines Neon Disco - 13th February (15:45-16:45 KS1 & 17:00-18:00 UKS2)

HALF TERM - 17th to 21st February

Pupils return to school - 24th February

Moon Class Assembly - 27th February (9:00)

World Book Day dress up - 6th March

Venus Class Assembly - 6th March (9:00)

Book Fair - 19th to 26th March

Saturn Class Assembly - 25th March (9:00)

Parents Evening - 1st April (15:30 - 19:30)

Parents Evening - 2nd April (15:30 - 17:30)

FFG Cake Sale (Moon & Neptune) - 2nd April (15:15)

Finish for Easter Break - 4th April (13:00)



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# Community Notices

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**Please remember to check the 'Community' tab of our website regularly, as we upload community groups and events that we hope you may be interested in.**

[www.theflitchgreenacademy.co.uk](http://www.theflitchgreenacademy.co.uk)

This week you can find information on:

Fitch United Football Club

Fitch Green Community Hall

POP Essex SEND Clubs and Respite

Rock Steady Music Lessons

Salad Days Magazine and Kizaround Magazine