

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 406

14/5/21



You will have heard this week that the Prime Minister has announced that some restrictions will be lifted from Monday 17th May 2021. I attended an online meeting on Tuesday with the Director of Education from the local authority and Mike Gogarty from Public Health England. The advice from the local authority and PHE is not to make any changes in school. Therefore as a school we will not be making any changes to our risk assessment systems and so this will need to remain in place. These will be reviewed again, if and when Phase 4 is confirmed. We will be continuing to ask parents to wear face masks whilst they are on our premises as part of our risk assessment. Our current lunchtime arrangements will remain the same and children will continue to work in their class bubbles when inside. The events which we have planned for the rest of the school year support the current advice and restrictions and so will go ahead unless we are told differently.

Please can we remind parents that before the children enter their classroom in the morning and once children have left their classroom in the evening, it is parents responsibility to supervise their children at all times. Please ensure that you are keeping an eye on them for their own safety and wellbeing.



Next week we will be on Week 3
of our Summer menu



Times Table Rock Stars

14/5/21



Silver Class 1st: Daniel C 2nd: Keira N 3rd: Mcrae K	Purple Class 1st: Neev V 2nd: Alfie G 3rd: Jess M	Gold Class 1st: George P 2nd: Peyton R 3rd:
White Class 1st: Ethan L 2nd: Chyler J 3rd: Emmi P	Black Class 1st: Erin E 2nd: Chloe L 3rd:	Green Class 1st: Hannah F 2nd: Adriana K 3rd: Charlotte S
Lilac Class 1st: Henry J 2nd: Bobbee B 3rd: Darcey S	Well done to everyone. The top child in each class will be entered into a draw which will be drawn at the end of term.	

Thank you all so much for your donations and engagement with our Easter reading fundraiser.

We will be ordering our reading vending machine very shortly.

We can't wait for you all to see it when it arrives for the new academic year.





Crafty Katie
Half term fun

All activities taking place at Abacus School
 Suitable for boys and girls age 4 to 11yrs

Weds 2nd June – Craft and Fun
 Mystical Creatures – Unicorns and Fairies, Mermaids
 Dragons and Trolls – A fun themed craft session with all of
 our favorite things including a creative story games session.
 10am to 3pm - £20. 9am to 3pm -£23

Friday 4th June – Festival of Fun Day
 10am to 3pm - £20 9am to 3pm -£23
 Inflatables-Craft Zone-Dance Zone-
 Crazy Golf-Games Zone- Music and More!
 See separate flyer for more details.



To Book- Booking form required for track and trace purposes. Text or
 call Katie on 07929 044959 or email to Craftykatie10@gmail.com to
 request booking form. Multiples of 8 children allowed per booking
 form, up to 2 forms per full group.(Christmas credit notes can be used)

CRAFTY KATIE'S
FESTIVAL OF FUN
FRIDAY 4TH JUNE
 CELEBRATING 10YRS OF CRAFTY KATIE ACTIVITIES

10am to 3pm -£20 9am to 3pm - £23

Inflatable fun - craft zone - games zone- crazy golf-
 dance zone - music & more

07929 044959 - GROUP BOOKINGS WELCOME

FOR BOOKING FORM EMAIL
CRAFTYKATIE10@GMAIL.COM

VENUE – ABACUS SCHOOL

silva island way - wickford
 for ages 4 to 11 years
 staff insured and dbs checked
 packed lunch required

Made with PosterMyWall.com

There are a number of events that we have added to our school calendar which will be taking place this term. Some events will have to be run slightly differently this year. But we are trying our best to ensure children do not miss out. Following the success of our outdoor end of year events last year, we have planned these again for later this term— more details will follow.

You can find these events on our website:

<https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/term-dates>





Live streaming on TikTok and other platforms

We want to make you aware of an emerging concern involving TikTok. There is a facility on TikTok whereby 1000 followers enables a person to be able to broadcast live, and some children and young people at school are broadcasting live using this and possibly other platforms at different times during the school day.

Live streaming is the broadcasting of live video to an audience or on a one-to-one basis in real time. During public live streams viewers can participate by 'liking' videos and adding comments which can be seen by the person broadcasting, and by other viewers. It is also possible for viewers to contact broadcasters who are live streaming or who have live streamed.

Any person with a TikTok or similar platform account can use live streaming. Many children and young people do this, for example to sing and dance and to talk about things, perhaps with the aim of attracting more viewers and to be someone who is 'trending' online.

Some example TikTok live streams were shown to me recently by the 'Two Johns' ([E-Safety Training](#)). I was able to see groups of students, who appeared to be at various different secondary schools, live streaming during the lunch period at school. The broadcasts I saw did not appear to include anything specific; they just seemed to be students who had decided to broadcast live on TikTok during their lunchtime, with other students coming in and out of the screen at different times.

This type of activity is popular among children and young people, including primary school children, and can be beneficial. For example broadcasting live may help to develop a person's creativity and improve their confidence, enable them to speak about something that matters to them on a wider platform, or perhaps as an additional way to stay in touch with friends.

Concerns

- There are risks for children and young people associated with broadcasting live online, and in engaging with other people's broadcasts, including:
- viewing inappropriate content (such as sexual or violent videos);
- communicating with people that are unknown to them;
- children and young people may be broadcasting from their bedroom, unsupervised – making an additional forum in which abuse may take place;
- there could be thousands of people watching a live stream at any time, including those who are looking to harm children and young people – it is possible to move a child or young person from a live stream to a private one;
- coercion or manipulation to create and share indecent images of themselves while live streaming;
- live videos can be recorded and shared.

The [Internet Watch Foundation](#) found that 98% of live streamed abuse on mostly private platforms showed children aged 13 and under, suggesting that this age group may be more at risk when live streaming. Research by the [London Grid for Learning](#) showed that 1 in 6 pupils aged 7-16 taking part in a survey said that something had happened while they were live streaming that made them feel uncomfortable, and more than 1 in 20 pupils had been asked to change or get undressed.

What you can do to support children and young people

Children and young people can be reassured that if something happens while live streaming it is not their fault, and reminded to seek support from school staff or their parents and carers if they are worried about anything, or if something has happened. Parents and carers can be reminded of the risks and ways to support their children with online safety.

Resources are also available from various organisations including those referred to above, and others such as [Thinkuknow](#), and the [NSPCC](#).

Matt Lewis

Education Safeguarding Adviser

Specialist Education Services



Sing2G7, is an ambitious project aiming to give children a voice ahead of the upcoming G7 Summit, have recorded a song at Truro cathedral. The song, titled Gee Seven that has been written by Sir Tim Rice and composed by Peter Hobbs, aims to put children's voices at the heart of the upcoming summit which opens in Cornwall on 11th June. The G7 (or Group of Seven) is an organisation made up of seven of the biggest economies, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The group considers itself as "a community of values".

Things to talk about at home...

Why do you think a message in a song might be more powerful than a message in a letter?

If you could speak or sing directly to the world leaders, what would you want to tell them?

Do you think world leaders should listen to children rather than just to adults?

Think about the type of music you like; how does it make you feel when you hear it?



Spotlight on our Curriculum



In Foundation this week we have been using non-fiction books to find out more amazing facts about Dinosaurs. We have learnt about the different time periods that different dinosaurs lived and been able to categorise some dinosaurs as either Carnivores or Herbivores.



Our new superhero this week is Supertato! We have really enjoyed reading about his adventures to defeat Evil Pea. So much so that we recreated the story as a comic strip and with speech bubbles too. In Maths we have been working with larger two-digit numbers and learnt a new maths word - partitioning. We have also started to learn about materials in Science as well as a new artist called Guiseppe Arcimboldo.



This week we have begun a unit on instructional writing and started by making Hardtack biscuits (Pirate biscuits). We have then gone on to write instructions on how to be a good pirate crew mate. In Maths we have been measuring and in Science we planted seeds. We have practised singing sea shanty's in Music and performed to each other over Zoom.



Year 3 have had another fun week of science activities. We have been experimenting how light shines through transparent, translucent and opaque materials forming shadows. We have been learning how to tell the time in 5 and 1 minute intervals past and to the hour. We have been reciting a poem 'Mummy' in English.



This week in Year 4 we have been continuing to learn about Play Scripts. We have learnt and performed a play all about Roman Gladiators. In our History lesson we have learnt about Roman Gods and Goddesses. We are continuing to work hard at our French and Ukulele lessons and are enjoying our P.E sessions. In Maths we are looking at decimals and in Science this week we have been investigating complete and incomplete circuits.



This week we have been writing a twist on 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' based on fairy tales. We have really tried to mimic the author's 'voice' and have written some fantastic stories. In DT, we have been designing our own feast to be cooked next week, following on from our learning about seasonality and a balanced diet. In PE, we completed another fitness test to measure our progress since last half term and lots of us saw improvements in our stamina, strength, agility, co-ordination, balance and speed.



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-synching 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.



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 teens dressing 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-synching 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 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 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 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 unleash 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 30 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.



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 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

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