



Newsletter

<http://www.oldparkprimary.co.uk>

Newsletter 26: 22nd April 2024

Message from the headteacher

Welcome to the new week. I hope that you all had a good weekend and enjoyed the lovely/warmer weather that we had. Firstly I wanted to say a massive well done to all of the pupils that competed in the cross country event in Newport last week. Ms Ryan who took the pupils was really impressed with their running and resilience, but most importantly the team spirit that they all showed in supporting each other in finishing the course. Building a sense of community where everyone supports each other at Old Park is really important, and I am really proud that they showed this during the event. Tuesday 16th April was primary offer day for the new foundation cohort starting school in September 2024. If you have a son/daughter currently in nursery and have not yet applied for a school place for September please make sure you do so as soon as possible. We are looking forward to another great week of learning at Old Park and I cant wait to visit all the classes throughout the week.

Value of the half term



In Harmony Practise Tools

A reminder that pupils wishing to complete practise for their In Harmony lessons can do so by logging in to the practise website, and entering the username and password below:

[In Harmony: Login \(inharmonyonline.org\)](https://inharmonyonline.org)

Username: oldpark

password: music

ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following classes for beating Mr Foster's 96% attendance challenge that he set last week:

FG, 1G, 2B, 2V, 3FP, 4H, 5F and 5W.

A special well done to 5W who had the highest attendance last week.

Is my child too ill for school?

Remember you can check the NHS website below for guidance on a range of illnesses and how long pupils might need to stay at home for. This is a great tool to use if you cant decide if children should be in school.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Online safety

Please remember to read the online safety information that is on page 4 of the newsletter each week. They contain useful information to keep pupils safe.





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Diary Dates

Summer 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Monday 6th May | Bank holiday (pupils not in school) |
| Monday 13th—Thursday 16th May | Year 6 SATS week |
| Friday 17th May | Year 6 reward trip (Town park and Sky reach) |
| Tuesday 21st May | Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop in school |
| Thursday 23rd May | Year 5 and 6 boys School Games County Finals |
| Friday 24th May | Last day of half term |
| Monday 27th—Friday 31st May | Half term |

Term dates 2023-2024

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 8th April 2024 | Summer term starts |
| 27th - 31st May 2024 | Half term |
| 3rd June 2024 | Staff PD day |
| Friday 19th July 2024 | Last day of term |
| Monday 22nd July 2024 | Staff PD day |





Newsletter



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough



Telford and Wrekin
FAMILY HUBS

SOUTHWATER DROP IN



Every Wednesday 9.30am - 12:30pm
Southwater Library – children's section

- Advice and signposting
- Information on parenting/ courses
- Support and guidance around accessing local community activities
- Family hubs information



Provided by
Strengthening Families
and Dandelion Peer
Parent support



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 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

DAINGEROUS 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-16s (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 birthdate.

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 100 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 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-16s 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.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

