



Working together so that all may flourish  
 Head Teachers Letter  
 Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a super start we have had to the term! Badgers have started their topic on the ancient Greeks by holding a mini Olympics. Otters have begun to look at the rainforest and have written some amazing descriptive sentences. Foxes have been looking at where are food comes from, and how many miles it travels.

Recapping and Revisiting Learning

As part of our broad and balanced curriculum at Heytesbury, we cover a wide range of subjects, knowledge and skills. Over the past two terms we have been looking at how we can develop our curriculum to allow children to revisit prior learning, ensuring that they know more and remember more.

Each of our subjects now has a set of strands that are mapped across the seven primary school years. These strands allow teachers to see what learning has come before the current topic, and where the children will revisit this knowledge in the future. This allows us to revisit different areas and ensure the building blocks for new learning are in place.

We have started to use our early morning session before Collective Worship to ask the children questions relating to knowledge that they have previously covered. At 8:45, when the children come into school there are four questions for them to answer, linking to knowledge that they have previously learnt. These are then discussed as a class and the answers shared. The use of this cognitive revisiting strategy supports the children to process their knowledge and understanding, ensuring the move from working memory to long term memory. This is crucial as we work to support children in managing their cognitive load, making sure that working memory is not overloaded.

Change in Opening Times

Just a reminder about an upcoming change to our school day. At the moment we have a soft opening, where the children are able to come into school between 8:45 and 9:00, any child not in school by 9:00 being marked as late. After Easter, this will be changed to a hard opening time of 8:45. All of the children will need to be in school for the 8:45 start time to ensure that we meet with the government requirements.

Attendance this week	97%
National Value	94.2%
Wiltshire Value	94.5%



A huge thank you to HEFA for organising a super pancake breakfast. We had a delicious time.



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### Value of the Term

This week we have introduced the value of the term. This term it is Forgiveness. We have talked about the importance of meaning what you say when you say sorry. The older children have also discussed that sometimes it is hard to forgive someone and it might take time before you can be forgiving. In the Lords Prayer we are taught to ask God to ‘forgive our sins as we forgive people who sin against us’. We will be continuing to look at this value across the term, thinking about how we can live it in our day-to-day lives. I would encourage you to talk about forgiveness with the children over the next few weeks.

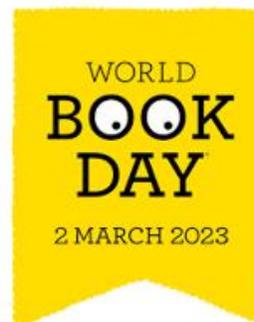
Thank you so much for your continued help and support, as we work together to enable all children at our school to flourish. If you have any questions or queries, please do get in touch. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Anderson



We have had a lot of school improvements over the half term break including; the new security cameras, new emergency lighting in the hall, Foxes Classroom has been painted and Otters class have a brand new writing shed.

We are really looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**. The staff are busy planning a day full of book-related activities for the children to enjoy and are excited to see how creative our children can be dressed as their favourite **adjective** (describing word).



The children will be bringing home their £1 book tokens on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, which they can exchange for a world book day book - there are some fabulous titles this year - or as part payment for a book of their choice at participating bookshops. **REMEMBER** to use the token by 26<sup>th</sup> March. You can visit the World Book Day site for **FREE** audio books to enjoy together; follow the link <https://www.worldbookday.com/worlds-of-stories/>

Thank you as always for your continued support.

## FAMILY HELP SURVEY

**?** Are you a parent or parent to be?

**?** Are you a young person who needs help and advice?

**?** Do you know how you can find out information on help available for you and your family?

We want to hear your views on family services and how you'd best like to access them. Please take this short survey and help us shape services for the future.

Web link: [survey.wiltshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=167422754798](https://survey.wiltshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=167422754798)

**Wiltshire Council**

THANK YOU to everyone who took part in our Read for Good Readathon in November: you were amazing! We raised a staggering

# £344.60

Read  
for  
Good

# 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.

#### 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 from 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 birthdate.

#### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive; figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

#### 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-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 to realise 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.

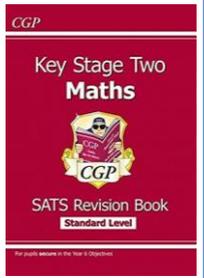


#### Meet Our Expert

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.



Last term as part of our work on staying safe online, we asked the children what their digital footprint was like. Many of our children use apps like TikTok, even though the age restriction for it and other apps like it is 13 and above. Here you can find information about TikTok, and what it does along with the risks and advice for parents and carers.



SATs Revision: Year sixes now have their maths revision guides to use to develop their knowledge and understanding as they learn to take responsibility for their own learning. This week, have a look at the section on finding percentages of amounts.

If you are not currently receiving Free School Meals, please see the criteria to check whether you may be eligible to apply. Free School Meals are available to eligible children that attend school within Wiltshire on a fulltime basis. This includes Nursery children of compulsory school age who attend school full-time.

If you think that you may qualify for Free School Meals please see the application form on the Wiltshire Council Website <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

**SEND Fact of the Week**  
Did you know? The statistics show that 14.6 per cent of 10-year-olds have SEN support. This reduces to 12.5 per cent of 11-year-olds and continues to decline as age increases.



### **March dates for your diary:**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March- World Book Day include a stay and learn from 2:15-3:00

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March- Paralympic Athlete visit

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March- Red Nose day

Week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> March- Scholastic book fair

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March- Otters Class cake sale

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March- Easter experience at the church

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March- Last day of term

### **Attendance**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS  
every student, every day



This week Otters and Badgers have the highest attendance with 100%. Remember that we are aiming for everyone to have 95% attendance or higher across the school year

### **Birthdays**



Happy Birthday to Oliver and Jacob

### **House Points**



Mars: 67 points

Jupiter: 57  
points

Mercury: 41  
points

This weeks  
winners are  
Mars!

### **Values Champions**

Henry Beck – being an amazing maths superhero this week, ordering and exploring bigger numbers and making pairs! Well done.

Rosa Bennett – Making wonderful rainforest music and dance this week. Well done.

Dylan - Dylan has had a brilliant first week back at school. He has tried really hard in his lessons.

Nancie - Nancie has had a superb attitude towards her learning this week and tried really hard to improve her handwriting.

Kyle - for demonstrating courage and perseverance in his maths work this week - especially when dealing with decimals.

Mia - for demonstrating wisdom and perseverance in her maths work this week - especially when converting fractions to decimals.