



School News

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No. 2

14th September 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parent Information Evenings

Parents and carers are invited to join us for an information evening where you will have an opportunity to hear about what your child will be learning in the year ahead. Years 3 to 6 meetings have already taken place and the remaining meetings will be held on the following dates;

Year 2 - Friday, 15th September at 3.30pm in the Year 2 classroom

Year 1 - Thursday, 18th September (**please note the change of date**) at 3.30pm in the Year 1 classroom

Fledglings - Friday, 15th September at 11.00am in the Fledglings Classroom

Thursday, 14th September - PTFA Meeting at 7.30pm at The Five Bells, Eastry

All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend the PTFA's first meeting this year. During the meeting they will be discussing arrangements for their biggest annual fund raiser, Bonfire and Fireworks night, which takes place on Friday, 3rd November. This is a very popular event and volunteers are needed to help make this happen.

Friday, 15th September - Year 6 Class Worship at 9.00am in the School Hall

Parents and carers of children in Year 6 are invited to join us for their child's class worship.

Friday, 15th September - Partnership with Parents meeting at 9.40am in the school hall

During our first Partnership with Parents meeting this new academic year we will be discussing 'Priorities for this academic year'. All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. Feedback from previous sessions has been invaluable to us to plan how we can improve the school for your children.

Tuesday, 19th September - Fledglings Welcome Service in School Hall at 1.15pm

All Fledglings will be in school all morning on 19th September and will stay for lunch. We then invite parents, carers and family to join us for our Fledglings Welcome Service at 1.15am in the school hall. Parents are then invited to take their child home following the service. Children will return to the class to collect their belongs before being dismissed by their class teacher.

Tuesday, 19th September (CHANGE OF DATE) - Year 6 Parent's Meeting at 5pm to discuss Applying for Secondary School

Parents and carers of children in year 6 are invited to join us for a meeting to discuss applying for a place at secondary school for your children.

Wednesday, 20th September - Fledglings in Full Time

Friday, 22nd September - Year 4 Class Worship at 9.00am in the School Hall

Parents and carers of children in Year 4 are invited to join us for their child's class worship.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Missed a letter from the school?

If you have missed a recent correspondence from the school these can be viewed on our 'Letters' page under the Parents tab on the school website.

INTERNET/ONLINE SAFETY SECTION

Tiktok

I am sure you will have heard of the social media platform Tiktok. Tiktok has an age rating of 13+ meaning content could be unsuitable for younger children and therefore not suitable for primary aged children. You may have older children, or a child at primary school who has had access to this app in the past, and so we thought it would be helpful to provide some advice about the app. Below you can find information about its content, safety measures you can take and other ideas to keep your family safe when using Tiktok.

Kind regards



Mr Neil Garvey

Interim Headteacher

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Week commencing 18.9.23

MONDAY	
Home Learning Club (3.30-4.00pm)	Yes
Creative Station (3.30-4.30pm)	Yes
TUESDAY	
Girl's Football (3.30-4.15pm)	Yes
WEDNESDAY	
Singing Club (8.00 to 8.35am)	Yes
Multi-Sports Club (3.30 to 4.30pm)	Yes
THURSDAY	
Football Club (3.30-4.30pm)	Yes
FRIDAY	



Home-Start Dover District is recruiting volunteers NOW! Can you help us?

Do you have some spare time? Have you got 2-3 hours free each week to support a family with at least 1 child under 11, in their own home? Would you like to make a difference? Training is FREE and is on line and can be done at any time to suit you.

Contact us today to find out more

office@homestartdover.org.uk

01304 242314

Charity No. 1102011
The Ark, Noah's Ark Road, Tower Hamlets, DOVER, CT17 0DD

**HOME
START**
Dover District

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

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 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-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
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Online
Safety
#WakeUpWednesday