

# Just a reminder that we break up for Christmas on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.



Create, Adapt and Learn Together  
Manchester Road Primary Academy

## NEWSLETTER 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

### ATTENDANCE 04/12/23 – 08/12/23

CLASS	SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	LATES
Bumblebee	89.5%	2
Clover bee	92.2%	6
Honeybee	95.8%	15
1A	95.9%	8
1B	93.9%	5
2A	95.6%	5
2B	93.3%	1
3A	98.4%	14
3B	95.6%	15
4A	95.7%	9
4B	95.9%	3
5A	95%	10
5B	94.6%	9
6A	98.1%	10
6B	88.6%	6

Lateness has a massive impact on children's learning. Not only on the children that are late, but also on the children in the classes being disrupted. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time each day.

97% and above Excellent
95% to 96% Attendance is slipping and will be closely monitored
95% or below Poor (high numbers of children are persistently absent)

### THE SCHOOL DAY

8.35 – 8.50am – Arrive on the school playground  
8.40am – Pupils enter school  
8.55am – Gates shut & registration begins  
11.45am – KS1 Lunch  
11.50am – KS2 Lunch  
12.35pm – Afternoon session begins KS1  
1.05pm – Afternoon session begins KS2  
3.15/3.20pm – End

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas and return on Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January.
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	4A Manchester Museum
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January:	4B Manchester Museum
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Y6 Safe Squad

### RECEPTION 2024

You can apply from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and the closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. This must be done through your local council.

### CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Parents are welcome to come and watch their child's assembly on the following dates.

Class	Date
3B Ms Hepburn	12 <sup>th</sup> January
1A Miss Boardman	19 <sup>th</sup> January
Honeybee Miss Thomson	26 <sup>th</sup> January
Bumblebee Mrs Frost	2 <sup>nd</sup> February

**Please note: these dates could potentially change. If they do, we will inform you.**



# STAR OF THE WEEK



Honeybee	Media for fantastic effort in writing and phonics this week.
2A	Robert for reciprocity and helping set up for the nativity rehearsals.
3A	Hollie for her positive attitude to learning and fantastic recall during NFER assessments.
4A	Poppy for perseverance with her writing and improved effort.
6A	The whole class for being the most amazing group of children and for always making me smile.
6B	Stanley for listening well to advice and being an enthusiastic member of the Christmas play.

## BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

As you may be aware, face club will be finishing at the end of December. Letter have gone out to those who already attend.

We will be starting our own Breakfast and After School Club which will be called Hive Hub. If you would be interested in securing a place, please email [office@mrpa.org.uk](mailto:office@mrpa.org.uk).

Below are the details for the club.

Breakfast club will start from 7.30am and the cost will be £5 per child and £4 for siblings.

Afterschool club will run between 3.30-5.30pm. There will be two separate charges.

- The first charge will be £4 which covers the hours between 3.30-4.30pm.
- The second charge will be £8 which covers the hours between 3.30 – 5.30pm

## CHRISTMAS DATES

Early Years Performance (Nursery and Reception)	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 9.20am and 1.30pm	One of these performances may take place at the church if we are able to secure a place.
KS1 Performance	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 9.20am and 1.30pm	
KS2 Christmas sing along	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December  Y3/4 – 9.15am & 1.30pm  Y5/6 – 10am & 2.15pm	We have split the performances as when they are together this can take almost 2 hours! But visitors with a child in both phases can still come to watch both.
Christmas crafting day	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Children will make Christmas crafts to bring home.
Christmas Parties	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Children can come to school in Christmas party outfits. They will have games and some Christmas treats.

## 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

#### 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 £89. 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 on average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 83 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 2021, 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 does not only act as 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 – 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.



National  
Online  
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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