



# St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

#19

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week it has been! It was wonderful to see our children and staff celebrate their individuality and culture during our Cultural Diversity Day on Wednesday—a great effort by all. Our Platinum Jubilee picnic was a success and children had fun celebrating this afternoon.

Looking ahead to next half term, I wanted to share our plans for Sports Week. This year we will be hosting a 'Sports Week' rather than a 'Sports Day' and I am excited to announce the return of a live audience! Parents and carers are invited to attend the events during this week to support their children as they aim to win the highly coveted St Ursula's Sports Trophy.

Our pupils will be competing in traditional Sports Day races such as the 100m sprint and the 4X100m relay, with the addition of some new activities which we hope they will enjoy.

Sports Week will take place between Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. Each Year group will have their own session which will provide them with the opportunity to take part in more activities. Crowds will be smaller so parents will have a better view of the races and other activities too.

### SPORTS WEEK TIMETABLE

	10:00-11:00am	2:00 – 3:00pm
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3	Year 4
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Reception	Nursery
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 1	Year 2
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 5	Year 6

**\*If the dates above are different to those shared on your child's Year Group newsletter then please ignore the dates previously provided. The dates above are the final and confirmed dates. \***

As our pupils from Reception to Year 6 will be representing their houses (St Angela's, St Dominic's, St Edwards and St Mary's) they will be required to wear the correct PE kit so that the house they are representing can be clearly identified when participating. Nursery children will take part wearing their usual uniform. Please provide your children with a bottle of water and cap/hat. Sun cream must be applied at home before pupils arrive at school.

I look forward to welcoming parents, carers and extended family to watch and cheer our sports stars. In the event of bad weather, sessions affected will be postponed and those attending will be notified via Schoolcomms.

### YEAR 6 LEAVERS' CELEBRATIONS

Our Year 6 pupils have been amazing in navigating school life during their time at St Ursula's but also in particular the past three years. School closures, class bubbles and a whole other host of measures has meant that our Year 6 have had a school experience like no other! Throughout it all, our pupils have shown great resilience and a determination to get on with school life, even in the face of adversity. That is why this year we have dedicated a whole week to celebrating our Year 6 pupils and the week is called 'Year 6 Celebration Week'.

Year 6 Leavers' Mass - Wednesday 6th July @ 2:00pm  
 Year 6 Leavers' Production – Thursday 7th July @ 9:30am  
 Year 6 Leavers' Bouncy Castle Disco - Thursday 7th July @ 1:30-3:00pm  
 Year 6 'Goodbye' Assembly – Friday 8th July @ 9:30am

Each Year 6 child will receive a leavers' t-shirt that has the school logo and the names of every child from their Year group. Children will be allowed to wear these on their last day of school. We recommend that children bring in an old school shirt to be signed rather than their new T-shirt.

Kind regards, *Mr Ashburn*

### Attendance TOP FIVE

1	St Edmund's	100%
2	St Margaret's	98.28%
3	St Anne's	95.98%
4	St Matthew's	95.83%
5	Nursery	92.74%

### SUMMER TERM DATES

- 30th May - 3rd June: Half Term
- 6th June: Yr 3 Verulamium Roman Museum trip
- 7th –10th June: Year 6 Residential
- 13th June: Year 5 trip to Rainham Marshes
- 20th—23rd June: Sports Week
- 24th June: Yr 6 Citizenship trip
- 1st July: Bouncy Castle Day
- 6th July: Yr 6 Leavers' Mass
- 7th July: Yr 6 Leavers' production & Year 6 Leavers' Disco
- 11th July: Class Transition Day
- 14th July: Curriculum Celebration Afternoon and End of Year reports sent out
- 22nd July: Start of School Holidays

### REMINDER: BOUNCE BONANZA

Friday 1st July is our Bouncy Castle Day. Throughout the school day, each year group will be given an allotted time to use the bouncy castles and this will mean that children will have more time bouncing and parents will not need to supervise as staff will do this during the day. Tickets cost £5 per pupil and can be bought through SchoolComms.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

## EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

## TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become 'TikTok famous'. While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.

## HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

## ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

## IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

### MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 18s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 18s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

### LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

### USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

### MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

## Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



SOURCES TikTok.com

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