



# USWORTH COLLIERY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 259 4th December 2020

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@UCPrimary#



### WINTER RUNDERLAND

On the 1st December, students from UCPS started their WinterRUNderland challenge along with children from other schools throughout the region. The Winter RUNderland is a Christmas themed, physical activity challenge for students in EYFS, KS1 & KS2.

Every Christmas Eve Santa Claus travels around the globe to deliver presents to all of the worlds' children. Of course he doesn't do this alone and relies on his trusty reindeer to help him. They get tired quickly and need plenty of carrots to give them energy. Children are in competing class bubbles to see how many carrots they can accumulate. Who can help get Santa around the world first?

Every class/bubble who completes the challenge and gets Santa and his reindeers around the world (**i.e. manages to record 300 minutes of physical activity between the 1st - 18th December**) will be entered into a prize draw to receive a free block of school sport coaching for the school. *Mr. McVittie-Mathews*

### REMINDER: CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We would like to invite all our children who would normally have a packed lunch the option to have a Christmas School Meal on Thursday 17th December. If your child is currently on school meals we do not need to know as your child will automatically receive a Christmas Meal.

If your child is in **Years 3 to 6** this meal will cost **£2.30**

If your child is in **Reception, Year 1 or 2** this meal will be free. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals but usually chooses a packed lunch this meal is also free.

Whatever your circumstances, please inform the office by email and if you need to pay do so on the [Sunderland City Council website](http://Sunderland City Council website) (Pay – School meals & expenses – Usworth Colliery Primary – School meals). You can pay anytime from now and please make sure that you put **CHRISTMAS LUNCH** in the message box when you pay.

**We need to know number by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December** so that the kitchen can order the food.

### INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION

The winners of the inter-house 'bounce about' competition are phoenix! Children from KS1 and KS2 took part see who could record the most tennis ball bounces in 30 seconds. They really enjoyed developing their concentration and accuracy skills. Who will be the winners next half term?

### CHRISTMAS DRESS DOWN DAY

On the final day of term, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, the children are allowed to wear non-uniform. They can wear Christmas jumpers if they wish, but do not feel that you have to go and buy anything new (you will have enough to spend your money on at this time of year without another expense).

### REMINDER: STAFF PANTOMIME

This year we will be recording our staff pantomime – 'Trouble in Pantoland', which will feature all your favourite pantomime characters (played by the same people as usual) and the same jokes! The recording will be made available via a link to Vimeo as we did with the whole school assemblies during lockdown. Access will be £5 per link and you can pay for this via [Sunderland City Council website](http://Sunderland City Council website) (Pay – School meals & expenses – Usworth Colliery Primary – Contribution to school funds). You can pay anytime from now and please make sure that you put **STAFF PANTOMIME** in the message box when you pay.

All funds raised will go towards school fund. The link for the pantomime will be sent to you via email on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December and you will be able to access it until the end of December.

This means that you can watch it as many times as you like! Oh, yes you can!

**WATCH OUT FOR A PREVIEW COMING EARLY NEXT WEEK!**



### RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

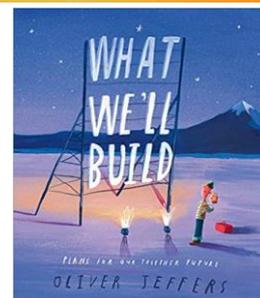
#### WHAT SHALL WE BUILD BY OLIVER JEFFERS

A spectacular new title from world-renowned artist Oliver Jeffers, creator of the million-copy selling, global phenomenon *Here We Are!*

What shall we build, you and I? I'll build your future and you'll build mine.

We'll build a watch to keep our time.

A father and daughter set about laying the foundations for their life together. Using their own special tools, they get to work; building memories to cherish, a home to keep them safe and love to keep them warm.



### DOJO POINTS

Check out our dojo/house point counter at <https://www.usworthcolliery.co.uk/children/house-point-counter>. Children are awarded points throughout the week for following the Colliery Code. This week's classes with the most house points are:

1<sup>st</sup> – 2ES    2nd – The Base    3rd – 4CS

## **PARKING**

I spoke to a local councillor yesterday who had received a complaint from a resident who said that they nearly knocked a child over who was crossing the road between parked cars outside of school. Despite the staggered start and fewer cars, the road outside is very dangerous. This is due to parents/carers parking on the yellow lines and generally dangerous driving. I ask you to please take care and where possible park safely at the back of the school.

We are constantly calling the council asking them for support and they have said that we are one of a few schools where there are issues in the area. They are going to be working with us in the new year. This will include work with the children and sending home travel surveys. They are also going to be having more frequent camera cars driving past at the beginning and the end of the day.

## **AUTUMN TERM DATES 2020**

Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Autumn Term Reports</b> (sent out to parents).
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Christmas dress down day</b>
<b>Monday 21st December to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>TEACHER TRAINING DAY</b>
Tuesday 5th January 2021	<b>Children back in school</b>

## **WEEKLY ONLINE SAFETY GUIDE – TIK TOK (see below)**

## **TWITTER STARS**

Remember to check out this week's Twitter Stars! These are tweeted on: @TStarKS1\_UCPS or @TStarKS2\_UCPS. They also appear on @UCPrimary and on our website Twitter feed.

## **ATTENDANCE WINNERS**

These classes have the highest attendance this week. Well done everyone!

**Whole school attendance – 95.6%**  
**EYFS/KS1 – 2CB with 97.9% KS2 – 4RD with 97.8%**

**Mr Gary Wright**

**Headteacher**



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. Its main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



## What parents need to know about

# TIKTOK



### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up to the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are light-hearted or designed to make people laugh. However there have been a number of videos reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and young teens engaging in sexually suggestive content. More recently, suicide-themed related videos have been widely circulated. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be common to come across explicit and age-inappropriate content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.



### INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.



### TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.



### ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.



### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.



### IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



## Safety Tips For Parents



### TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use TikTok, make sure you take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have an open dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



### USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



### ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



### MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Even if it doesn't make you popular, keep a close eye on what your child is viewing and sharing on TikTok. Whilst the app has moderation tools, videos can still slip through the net so it's important to regularly check in on what they're watching. Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with it. You could then even watch some videos with your child, turning it into a bonding opportunity also.



### LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a relatively safe space for your child to express themselves. However, in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



### MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



## Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



### FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.



SOURCES: [www.tiktok.com](http://www.tiktok.com)