

# Friday 17th January



## Young Voices Event

On Thursday our choir took part in one of the largest school choir events in the world at the Genting Arena in Birmingham. They got to sing alongside Tony Hadley (Spandau Ballet), The Shires (one of the most talked-about country music acts), Ruti (Winner of The Voice in 2018) and were taught dance moves by the Urban Striders. The children said they had an amazing experience and cannot wait to do it again next year! A huge thank you to Mrs Rupp and Mr Davies who taught the choir the songs and to the staff involved and the families who travelled to Birmingham to watch the performance. We are very proud of you all for committing to rehearsals, performing so well and for behaving fantastically during what was a very long day!



## Eco-Schools



Montrose School

has been given this award to recognise their achievement in working towards a sustainable lifestyle.



## Eco-Schools Silver Award

Our School Council have been working hard on three eco topics: waste, transport and energy. Due to our hard work in these areas we have now achieved our Silver Award for Eco Schools. Our next job is to monitor and evaluate the changes to our school and apply for the Green Flag. Well done everyone!

## Online Safety

We have been made aware of several incidents recently involving TikTok outside of school. If you are not familiar with what this is then please read the information sheet at the end of this newsletter. You should also have received our January 2020 Online Safety Newsletter. As always we ask you to oversee what your child is doing /accessing online and to have conversations about who they are talking to /are friends with.

Mr Owens, Head teacher

## Lunchtime Activities & After School Clubs

### Monday

**Y3/4 Football Training**  
**Training for competitions**

**Y1-5 Football**

**Y1-6 Street dance**

**Y4-6 Art Club**

### Tuesday

**Y2-4 Girls' Multisport**

**Y4-6 Minecraft**

**Y4-6 Netball**

### Wednesday

**Y2-4 Boys' Multisport**

**Y3-6 Cross Country**

**Y3-6 Basketball**

### Thursday

**Y5-6 Street dance**

**Y5/6 Football Training**

**Y5-6 Football Training**

**Y2-3 Art**

### Friday

**Y5-6 Multisport**

**Y1-6 Dodge Ball**

**Y2-3 Minecraft**

## Any worries?

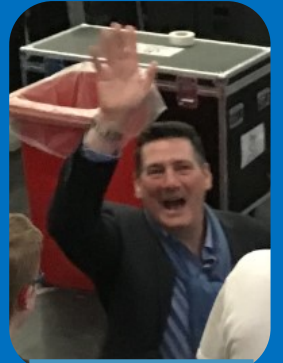
Our Family Support Worker, Donna McAteer, is available to support with a range of issues. Contact her at school or on 07378 285273.



# Young Voices



The Shires



Tony Hadley



Meeting some of the Urban Striders





## Diary Dates

### **Thursday 23rd January**

Basketball event - selected children

### **Tuesday 28th January**

Year 1 trip to Beaumanor Hall

### **Thursday 30th January**

School Photographs

Basketball event - selected children

### **Friday 31st January**

Jack and the Beanstalk Production

### **Wednesday 5th February**

Assembly - author visit

### **Friday 7th February**

### **Number Day**

### **Wednesday 12th February**

Dance festival - selected children

### **Friday 14th February**

Last day of Term

### **Monday 24th February**

First day of Term

### **Thursday 5th March**

World Book Day

Theatre Visit - selected children

### **Friday 6th March**

Cross Country Event

### **Thursday 12th March**

Netball Event - selected children

### **Friday 13th March**

Year 4 Anglo-Saxon Day

Hockey Competition - selected children

### **Thursday 19th March**

Fire Assembly - Year 1 and 5

Netball Event - selected children

### **Friday 20th March**

Rugby Event - selected children

### **Monday 23rd - 27th March**

Year 3/4 Production Week

### **Friday 27th March**

Tennis Event - selected children

## Our Best Picture Book

Year 2 are taking part in the 'Our Best Picture Book' event in conjunction with the Library Service. Each week they get to take home a different book and once they have had read all of the books they get to vote for which one is their favourite. The picture below is of the families who managed to join us for the launch of the event.







TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's 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 to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. 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



## MATURE 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 for 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 lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.



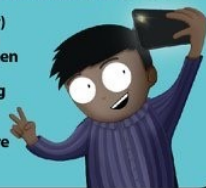
## INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

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 DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. 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.



## EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.



## LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just 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.



SOURCES:

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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