

NORTH WALKDEN PRIMARY - NEWSLETTER

29th November 2024



Reading challenge: Well done to our winners, Spencer, Ella-Rose, Aliza, Grace and Asif who all received a £5 voucher to spend at the book fair. Well-done to everyone who took part, it was wonderful to see that so many of you enjoy reading for pleasure.

Christmas Events: We are approaching the busy Christmas period so as a reminder of all activities please find attached the Christmas activities information that was sent out some weeks ago. Booking for shows can be made on School Spider and payments for event on My Evolve Hub

Christmas Toy Appeal is back this year: If you would like any help or support with Christmas presents this year, then please get in touch and we can help. The closing date for referrals is December 2nd 2024. Please speak to any member of staff at school if you would like to be added to the list, or you can send us an email. All we need is the children's names and ages. We will then contact you when your presents are ready for collection.

Parents Evening: The evening was well attended and we hope you found the meeting with your child's teacher supportive and informative. If for some reason you didn't have your appointment please get in touch and we can arrange another time.

Parents Survey: The parent survey opens on Monday 2nd December at 9am and closes on Friday at 12pm. As a school we value the feedback of our families and use this to help guide, improve and inform the decisions we make in our effort to provide the best education for your child. School is about nurturing a thirst for learning and also guiding children to be the best they can and to 'Reach for the Stars'. We cannot do this alone and always need parents and carers support so please take a few minutes to give us your feedback.

The questionnaire can be anonymous if you so wish, but it is helpful to include your child's name so that we can act upon any feedback received.

Please read the statements and select the answer which best fits your experience of North Walkden Primary. If you have not had any experience of the question or cannot answer, please answer accordingly. Please only answer in relation to your own child and your own specific interactions with school, many thanks. Mrs

Warburton

Y6 Roving Reporters Bulletin

We recently enjoyed a Front Row concert from our children who have music lessons in school:

Isla W, year 5 student played 'Double life' by Despicable's

Moses, year 5 student played 'If you wanna' by the Vaccines

Christmas has arrived!

The council are decorating the Christmas tree. We are practicing our Christmas play every morning. We are all having fun and practicing for the production in a couple of weeks' time.

We have all had our Christmas Craft days and been making cards, calendars, decorations and Christingles.

Lastly, Mrs Connaghan has assigned some people to be in the wonderful Christmas choir that is practising for their own performance for the governors.

Regards, Mason and Amina.

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-16 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.



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 £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 80 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-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.



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.03.2023

School communication: Please ensure you are logged into your school spider app so that you receive all the important messages we send out. If you need to download the app again, its 'School Spider' and then you can simply go to the log in page and click forgot password to reset your log in details.

WEDNESDAY 18 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 1 PARTY AFTERNOON – PARTY CLOTHES DAY £2.00	1.30-3PM	KEY STAGE 1
WEDNESDAY 18 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 2 OPERA HOUSE CHRISTMAS TRIP £12.00	1.30 – 6.00pm	KEY STAGE 2
THURSDAY 19 TH DECEMBER	NON UNIFORM DAY FOR £1 DONATION	ALL DAY	WHOLE SCHOOL
THURSDAY 19 TH DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS HAMPER WINNERS DRAWN	9AM	WHOLE SCHOOL
THURSDAY 19 TH DECEMBER	SCHOOL FINISHES	2PM	WHOLE SCHOOL

Kind regards, Mrs Warburton