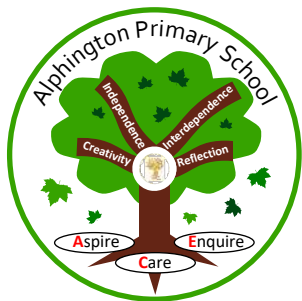




Alphington Primary School

Newsletter

26/03/2021



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are racing towards the end of this term and what a term it has been! The children have settled back into school and their learning so well and there is a real buzz about the school!

Healthy Me:

As part of our PSHE curriculum the children have been following the Jigsaw theme of Healthy Me. We have been focussing on the importance of eating a balanced diet, keeping fit, being active, and sleeping well. With that in mind please can I remind you to send in healthy snacks and packed lunches for the children, and to ensure that they only have water in their bottles and not juice. Please can I also remind you that we are a nut free school as we have several children with a nut allergy.

As children are now back in school, they are, hopefully (!) starting to get back into a good sleeping routine but if they are still struggling with this then the following websites may be useful.

www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/how-sleep-better

<https://www.sleepfoundation.org/children-and-sleep>

Wraparound Club:

It has been wonderful having all your children back with us for their breakfast and after school club sessions. They have settled back in brilliantly and we are so proud of them. Below you will find the booking opening dates for next half term and some key reminders.

Bookings

Bookings for the first half of the summer term will open week beginning 29th March. Wave 1 bookings can be made on the Monday and Tuesday of this week with Wave 2 bookings opening from the Wednesday onwards. Please remember that Wave 1 spaces are always allocated based on the sessions you booked for the previous half term. If you require any spaces in addition to those you booked this half term, or if you book on a more ad-hoc basis, these must be booked during Wave 2.

Breakfast Club

To meet our current risk assessment, please make sure you arrive at breakfast club between 7.45am and 8am. Parking for breakfast club drop off is based in the tennis courts.

Voucher Payments

Please can we remind parents who pay using childcare vouchers, to email wraparoundclub@alphington.devon.sch.uk with the reference number, date and amount paid, each time they process a payment. Thank you as always for your continued support,
The Wraparound Team



Red Nose Day:

It was so lovely seeing everyone dressed to impress as superheroes and in their red clothes on Friday and thanks to your generosity we raised a massive £445.50!

Well done to everyone who entered the joke competition and I am delighted to announce that the winners of the joke competition are:

Ollie: What is big, green and sits in the corner doing its own thing?
The Incredible Sulk!

Lilly: What do you call a girl with a frog on her head?
Lily!

Robyn: Why are pirates called pirates?
Because they arrgghh!

Annie: How do you get a Pickachu on a phone.
You poke'em on!

Each of the winners has received a Comic Relief water bottle.



Parents evening:

Teachers have really enjoyed catching up with you all during parents evening this week and you never know we might be able to do these in person next time!

Alphington E-safety:

Following conversations with pupils and parents, we are aware that many children are more active online and using a range of social media platforms. There are many purposeful and safe online mediums to stay in contact with friends and family; however, it is important to stay up to date with the guidance and information to ensure your child is safe. One social media platform that we are more frequently discussing is Tik Tok. This is a video-sharing social app that allows people to create and share short video clips. Tik Tok has an age restriction of 12+ and also 16+ for live streaming. Please see below further information regarding Tik Tok and e-safety websites to ensure your child is remaining safe online.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/tiktok/>

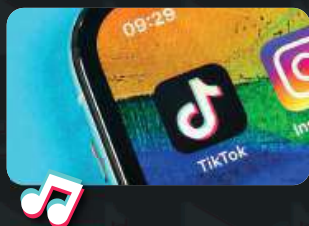
<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>



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 800 million active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about



TIKTOK



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 – so it is possible for a child to be exposed to explicit and age-inappropriate content.



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 want 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 you intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.



IN-APP PURCHASES

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. Buying coins is now restricted to over-18s – but TikTok doesn't require users to verify their age on sign up, so a young person could easily access this feature if they were determined to.



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

In early 2021, TikTok changed the default setting for all under 16s' 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 16s. 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 SAFETY MODE

'Family Safety Mode' 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.



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: www.tiktok.com



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 24.02.2021

Phase news:

Ladybirds

Ladybirds have continued their learning all about our wonderful world through exploring food and plants this week. They have been planting herbs in their herb garden and have taken part in a competition called the big grow! Inside, the role play has transformed into a cookery school where children are able to explore counting, measure and capacity when following instructions and creating their own recipes. We have had lots of fun exploring rhyme, reading rhyming stories, playing games, and noticing it in our play. The secret ninjas have also appeared in Ladybird class and have set up a secret ninja writing den which has been great fun, writing codes and messages. We have used our observation skills to investigate nature in the observation tank, using magnifying glasses to look closely and ask questions about what we have seen. There has been lots of fun bug hunting in the coco pops mud this week, which has provoked some great talk about minibeasts.



Foxes and Hedgehogs

The Foxes and Hedgehogs have been busy exploring nature and the lifecycles of animals and minibeasts as part of our theme 'What's inside the egg?'. The children have been patiently watching our eggs at the observation station, discussing what might hatch out. We have enjoyed exploring two key texts 'An egg is quiet' and 'The Very hungry caterpillar' and have learnt to retell these stories as well as use new vocabulary to describe life cycles. This week we have been exploring what makes us healthy, looking at different fruits and vegetables and even growing some beans of our own. Our role play has been a busy vets surgery with the animals been measured, fed and treated by our super junior vets. In Maths, we have been exploring the number 5, learning to subitise (recognise the number without counting dots or objects) and finding pairs of numbers that make 5. To develop our fine motor skills, we have been starting each morning with 'funky fingers' and then children come into school to a range of engaging challenges such as; threading nuts into bolts, hammer beads, sewing, pattern making and freeing the animals from elastic bands.

Reminders:

Foxes have PE on Monday and Thursday and should wear PE kit into school on these days. On Friday's we will continue with Forest folk but children will need to wear school uniform, please make sure that they have waterproofs and wellies to put on for the session.



KS1:

The **Year 1** children have been continuing to learn about Pudding Lane and The Great Fire of London. Squirrels and Bumblebees went on a sensory walk around the school and thought about what they could see, hear, touch and smell. They found lots of things, so it took a long time! In PE, the children have been looking at expressive dance and thinking about how a fire might move and spread, definitely showing some super moves. They also made some superb Tudor Houses to show how the houses might have looked at that time.



What a great time the **Grasshoppers and Dragonflies** have been having. They certainly have been taking advantage of the lovely sunny weather and have grabbed any opportunity to get outside and do their learning in different and interesting ways! They have been focussing on Traditional Tales and the children have been learning the story of Little Red Riding Hood. Using the forest in the school grounds, the children got into groups and acted out the story, using the path and Grandma's cottage. They loved it, and the story writing that they produced afterwards was excellent. The **Year 2** children have been loving their Intrepid explorers' topic, in our outdoor learning, the children have been creating nature trails for their partner to find and making maps to find the treasure. Grasshoppers and Dragonflies are not only Intrepid Explorers, they are super explorers!



Year 3 and 4 Phase News

Year 3 have continued to be fantastic learners! We started our new unit on measurement and measured how big the astro-turf was in metres. Can you predict how long it is? In English, a new book was left for the children to explore. Glitter, cards and stars were scattered everywhere! Our new book is *Leon and the Place Between* and we have been learning how to use fronted adverbials and direct speech in our writing. In theme, we made Egyptian collars, which we painted and they look wonderful. We look forward to producing our final write next week where we will be creating our own version of *Leon and the Place Between*.



What an exciting couple of weeks we have had in **Year 4**! We have been continuing with our text: *A Walk in London* and *A Walk in Paris* ready to create our final writes next week on our own made-up places. We have been learning all about how to use fronted adverbials and how to accurately punctuate them. We have also been practising writing in an impersonal voice and in an excited informal voice. In theme, we have learnt all about the best places to settle and made choices of where we would choose to go. Outdoors we have created bridges- which were amazing and our collaboration skills were great! Finally, in science we have either been looking at ice and thermal insulators or how to make a gas using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda.



Year 5 and 6 Phase News

Year 5 have been creating some amazing writing in English. We have focussed on newspapers and how they are styled. The children have been learning more about space exploration and have discussed whether they believe animals should be used in space exploration. They wrote to NASA to let them know their thoughts! In outdoor learning, Year 5 created space models using natural objects and resources that could be found on the site. The children were brilliant Problem Solving Pollys. In maths, it has all been about fractions, decimals and percentages and the children have shown great determination with these skills. Well done Year 5!

Year 6 have been so busy in all areas of the curriculum... in theme, they have continued learning all about people who make their mark and studied and recreated work by artists such as Jean Michel Basquiat and Banksy. They have also been learning about the work of different charities and how charities make an impact. Year 6 have been honing their musical skills and been writing their own songs too, making their musical mark! In maths, Year 6 have started learning all about the incredible world of algebra and have been enjoying the challenge. The children have also used Now Press Play to start the next unit of science on evolution and learnt some amazing things!



School lunch Thursday 1st April:

The school kitchen has amended the lunch on this day to Mini battered fish fillet, Veggie fingers or jacket potato with cheese and beans.

PTFA:

Easter Colour Day on Tuesday 30th March

Did you know that Easter has its own traditional colours? Have a look at our PTFA newsletter to pick your favourite colour and wear an Easter coloured top instead of your school jumper on Tuesday 30th March, but please make sure you still wear your school skirt or trousers as normal.

Voluntary donations via the school gateway app to participate with a suggested donation of 50p. Have fun on Easter Colour Day!

Easter egg decorating competition

There is still time to submit your entries until Sunday 28th March to have a chance of winning a chocolatey prize! There are some great videos and links to websites on the PTFA Facebook site for some egggy inspiration too!



Easter goody bags

The PTFA are organising Easter goody bags with a selection of cake slices for collection on Saturday 3rd April. Order via PTFA@alphington.devon.sch.uk by Wednesday 31st March. The PTFA newsletter gives all the details about the types of cakes, how to get the bank details for paying and the price of the Easter goody bag.

