



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

*With Christ we Achieve, Believe and Create.*



*Newsletter 01/12/2023*

## *Opening Prayer*

**God of Love,  
Your son, Jesus, is Your  
greatest gift to us.  
He is a sign of Your love.  
Help us walk in that love  
during the weeks of Advent,  
as we wait and prepare  
for His coming.  
We pray in the name of  
Jesus, our Saviour.  
Amen.**





## Heads News

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*This coming Sunday, 3rd December, marks the beginning of Advent, a beautiful time of preparation for Christmas. It is a very busy but exciting time in school with preparations well underway for the nativity and carol service.*

*Last night the school choir performed at the Kidlington Christmas Light switch on and despite the freezing temperature every child performed beautifully and we are very proud of them all.*

*We were also delighted to find out that St Thomas More Catholic Primary School won the Greyfriars Church Street Christmas 2023 art competition. The children's work is now on display on the Iffley Road in Oxford, so do pop by and have a look. You can see some of the art work in the photos below, the children put a lot of effort into their art work and this recognition is well deserved.*

*In addition to the art competition we were also informed yesterday that the Chair at Oxfordshire County Council, Cllr Felix Bloomfield, choose four of our children's designs for his Christmas card competition. The winning pupils will be presented with a gift and Cllr Felix Bloomfield is hoping to come to school to make the presentation in person.*

*As the forecast is for the weather to get colder please ensure that children come to school with a warm coat, hat and gloves.*

*I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.*

*Every blessing*

*Julieann*



# Notices and Information



*Birthdays: If it is your child's birthday, they can come to school in non-school uniform.*

*If their birthday falls on a weekend or in the holidays, they can come to school in non-school uniform the following school day.*



## CHRISTMAS MENU

### MAIN

Roast Turkey, Roast Potatoes, Chipolata, Stuffing and Seasonal Vegetables

OR

Quorn Roast, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing and Seasonal Vegetables

### PUDDING

Christmas Cookie or Ice Cream

*Christmas  
Dinner Day  
Wednesday  
13th December*



*Deadline for  
bookings  
Wednesday 6th  
December*



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# Notices and Information

## ★ *Reminder for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Nativity Performance* ★



**Nativity  
Performances**

Tuesday 12th December 2023 - 2pm

Thursday 14th December 2023 - 5pm

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1EA, United Kingdom.



## Attendance

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

6 days or less  
absence per year  
**97% or above**  
**VERY GOOD**  
**THIS IS YOUR**  
**TARGET**

Between  
7 and 19 days  
absence per year  
**90% - 96%**  
**BELOW**  
**EXPECTATIONS**

More  
than 19 days  
absence per year  
**Under 90%**  
**POOR**  
**ATTENDANCE**



*Gates open at 8:40am ready for lessons to start at  
8:45am*



## Safeguarding

### Keeping Children Safe in Sport - NSPCC

Sport is a fantastic thing for children and young people. It helps them socialise, keeps them fit and more importantly can introduce them into an interest for life. One which will increase their quality of life far into the future, setting good habits and instilling values and self-discipline. Engaging with them in this manner can show them new directions for their lives and expand their opportunities. Unfortunately there are, like with anything, risks attached. Away matches, interactions with non-school staff such as coach drivers, out-of-school coaches and other personnel can create vulnerability windows that could be exploited. To help head off these potential problems, the NSPCC has created a page dedicated to offering guidance on how to keep pupils safe in sporting environments. To find out more please follow the link <https://thecpsu.org.uk/parents>



# Internet Safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## 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-18 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.

18  
CENSORED

#### 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 60 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 on school 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.



#WakeUpWednesday



# Values Celebration Assembly

*Congratulations to all of these children who showed one of our school values this week. We are very proud of you all!*



## RECEPTION - PADDINGTON FAMILY

*Arvi for showing our value of Determination*

*Lucia for showing our value of Determination*

*Viola for showing our value of Determination*

*Alex for showing our value of Respect*

## YEAR 1 - MATILDA FAMILY

*Nicholas for showing our value of Determination*

*Isaac for showing our value of Respect*

*Zora for showing our value of Determination*

*Iria for showing our value Unity*



## YEAR 2 - MUGGLE-WUMP FAMILY

*Gabriel for showing our value of Determination*

*Ricky for showing our value of Respect*

*Kaelen for showing our value of Determination*

*Daniel for showing our value of Unity*

## YEAR 3 - MR FOX FAMILY

*William for showing our value of Determination*

*Nimma for showing our values of Unity and  
Humility*

*Nicole for showing our value of Determination*

*Elliott for showing our values of Respect and  
Determination*

## YEAR 4 - MALALA FAMILY

*Amber for showing our value of Respect*

*Melvin for showing our value of Respect*

*Sharonn for showing our value of Determination*

*Harmony for showing our value of Determination*





## YEAR 5 - GATES FAMILY

*Limuthu for showing our values of Unity and Fairness*

*Alex for showing the value of Respect*

*Kevin for showing our value of Determination*

*Luca S for showing our value of Determination*

## YEAR 6 - POTTER FAMILY

*Mofe for showing our value Respect*

*Lilia for showing our value of Unity*

*Arthur for showing our values of Respect and  
Determination*

*Blessing for showing our value of Determination*

