



St Nicholas Church School

School Newsletter

17th May 2024 Term 5 Newsletter 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are immensely proud of each and every one of our year 6 pupils who took their SATs tests this week in school. Their positive attitude and resilience is everything we have come to expect from St Nics pupils and they certainly did us proud. Not only did children from Hartlake class take the tests but also children from our Midford resource base too. For these children to have reached the point where they are able to confidently sit an exam is an outstanding achievement for them. A special mention must also go to Leo in Year 6 who many of you will know has missed a significant amount of school this year due to medical reasons. He could easily have chosen not to take the exams but with the immense bravery he has shown throughout this whole year, we knew that was never going to happen! He is an inspiration to us all—and Year 6, you are all superstars! Well done.

Last week, the school was put through it's paces with an Ofsted inspection. This can be a very busy time for the school but we are always proud to show off all the great things the children achieve at St Nics. They all engaged so well with the inspector!

Next week we are hoping the sun will shine for our Sports Days. Parents are welcome to attend as always and full details have been sent out in a separate letter today. If you are new to our school and have any questions about the day, please speak to the office team who will be able to help.

Enjoy the weekend,

Mr Low & Mrs Simmons

Our Peg Award Winners

Blue	Yellow	Pink	Green	Orange	Purple
Alicia P Chloe F Iona T	Blake Zinitha G Lexi DW Niall Amelia-Rose	Lily T Carter H	Harrison G Harrison P Korey B Wynter-Rose M	Jaycub K Thea T	Reggie K



St Nics PTFA

The sun is finally out! We've recently held our first ice cream sales - hopefully the first of many over the next few months. They will be held on different days of the weeks so that everyone gets an opportunity to enjoy a lovely ice cream or ice lolly. Look out for a message from school, and keep an eye on our Facebook page!

The Summer Fair is approaching quickly, and we would be really grateful for your help on the day, even if you can only spare half an hour to help on a stall. Don't worry about having your children with you, we find that they love helping!

We will be selling refreshments at both KS1 and KS2 Sports days, so don't worry if you forget your drink or packed lunch, we will have plenty of goodies for you!



Online Safety

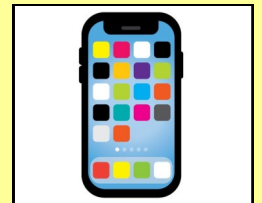
At St Nics, we want all children to be able to use the Internet safely. It has come to our attention that a very small number of children in KS2 are using the social media platform Tik Tok in a way which could be unsafe.

We are speaking with the children generally about internet safety in school, both as part of our Online Safety teaching and in a generalised way regarding any issues which may be brought to our attention. It would be very helpful if you could also reinforce the following messages about internet safety at home.

Age ratings

Tik Tok, although a very popular site among young people, is age rated at 13 years plus. We would strongly recommend that children of primary school age do not have a Tik Tok account and if they do, this is supervised and managed by a parent. Advice on how to support children age 13 and over on Tik Tok can be found on the NSPCC website linked [here](#).

See also the attached safety page about Tik Tok on the newsletter.



Privacy of children

It is really important that everyone is in charge of their own digital footprint on the internet, and that no-one is mentioning anyone on a public platform by their personal name or using an address which could identify a pupil. Open conversations about digital lives between adults and children are an important part of understanding the boundaries of internet use. Please find attached in the newsletter an information sheet about this.



Although use of social media is only happening outside of school, we will of course work with children and families to support with any online safety issues, just as we would with difficulties arising in person. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or the SLT.

Our Award Winners

	Star	Maths Magician	Reading/Oracy	Wizard Writer
Cam	Zak M	Tilly B	Ava H Isabella N	Miracle
Somer	Cheyenne	Fabian D	Rushew Zoe MG	Marina C
Dart	Darcie W	Piper H	Dolcie R	Zachary C

Attendance

Cam	98%
Somer	97.3%
Dart	96.2%
Avon	96.5%
Mells	98.8%
Yeo	95.5%
Hartlake	99.6%
Midford	78%
Wellow	100%

Overall attendance is: 96.6%

Time to Talk

Cam	Count in twos up to 20.
Somer	What facts can you remember about Christopher Columbus?
Dart	Who was Neil Armstrong?
Avon	What do you know about water transportation in plants?
Mells	Were The Vikings raiders, traders or settlers?
Yeo	Tell your grown up about the Greek myth you are writing.
Hartlake	What are you most proud of this week?
Wellow	What do you know about shadows?
Midford	

House Points

Ludlow	339
Foxcote	383
Tynning	240
Huish	340

Diary Dates

Monday 20th May

Y6 Trip To The Beach

Tuesday 21st May

KS1Sports Day & Family Picnic

Wednesday 22nd May

KS2 Sports Day & Family Picnic

Thursday 23rd May

Y1 Trip To SS Great Britain

Friday 24th May

Family Breakfast

Spirit Of St Nicholas Assembly

End Of Term 5

Monday 3rd June

Term 6

Wednesday 5th June

KS1 Reserved Sports Day

Friday 7th June

KS1 Celebration Assembly

Tuesday 11th June

9.30am Reception Family Event

Wednesday 12th June

PTFA Summer Fayre

Friday 14th June

KS2 Celebration Assembly

Monday 17th June

2.30pm Y6 Family Event

Wednesday 19th June

Y4 Family Lunch

Monday 24th June

2.00pm Y2 Family Event

Friday 28th June

KS2 Celebration Assembly

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.

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-16s (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-16s 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.



Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMINDE YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are **not** to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.



STAY SAFE ONLINE

1

Don't share your personal information



2

Only talk to people that you know



3

Don't meet up with anyone you have only met online



4

Only accept friend requests from people you know personally



5

Always think carefully about what you post



8

Report inappropriate content immediately



6

Make use of the privacy settings on all of your social media accounts



7

Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are



9

Only share images that you'd be comfortable with your friends and family seeing



10

Never share your passwords



Family Holiday Activities

EXPLORE • CREATE • DISCOVER

Seasonal fun for all the family in school holidays!



Peace and Harmony

Tuesday 28 to Thursday 30 May 2024

in the Wells Cathedral Education Room

10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. / 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Get stuck in with our creative workshops for children inspired by Peter Walker's stunning Peace Doves installation:

Build a Dove *Tuesday 28 May*

Construct a dove toy with moveable wings, and create a painting with fingerprints

Birds on the Wing *Wednesday 29 May*

Create bird art inspired by local artist, Caroline Byrne

Sensory Play and Mindful Crafts *Thursday 30 May*

Make a windmill to take home – and breathe!

Before your craft session, pick up a free Activity Sheet and explore what peace means to you as you wander beneath thousands of paper doves in the Cathedral Nave.

Write a message to hang on our Peace Tree and go 'bird spotting' in Caroline Byrne's exhibition, 'Birds on the Wing'.

Find out more at wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays

Admission: **FREE***

No need to book—just turn up on the day!

Please note: Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and only assistance dogs are allowed at our family activities.

**Included with a valid Cathedral ticket or admission pass—all under 18s go free.*



SUMMER Fayre

Wednesday 12th June

3pm



LOOK FOR A BOOK

Sponsored by

Poppets Imagination Library

25th may- 31st may
Radstock, MSN, Westfield & Writhlington

Look for a Book

If you find one of our lucky books around you can read it,
keep it or re-hide it for others to find.

Please join our Facebook page to keep up to date with all that is happening and
books that have been found.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1788984178272923/?ref=share_group_link



Check out my website
via the qr code



ounce and Rhyme

day 10.30 - 11.00am 22 May

wo, Share One - knitting & Crochet group for any age/a

y 10.00 - 12.00pm 23 May

d Nannies Community Sewing Bee

10.00 - 12.00pm 24 May

Game Saturdays

y 12.30 - 4.00pm 25 May

he Library: Design a Future Library Competition Exhibi

at During opening hours 1 - 31 May

y Space, for families with children and young with sensory needs

at, Book a Session via Eventbrite

ab, Family Fun Drop In

at During opening hours

selected events, the links will be online in the blog

2023-2024 SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

Including INSET DAYS

TERM 1	
Start:	Tuesday 5th September
Finish:	Friday 20th October
TERM 2	
Start:	Monday 30th October
Finish:	Friday 15th December
TERM 3	
Start:	Wednesday 3rd January
Finish:	Friday 9th February
TERM 4	
Start:	Monday 19th February
Finish:	Thursday 28th March
TERM 5	
Start:	Monday 15th April
Finish:	Friday 24th May
TERM 6	
Start:	Monday 3rd June
Finish:	Tuesday 23rd July
INSET DAYS	
Friday 1st September 2023	
Monday 4th September 2023	
Tuesday 2nd January 2024	
Monday 29th January 2024	
Friday 12th July 2024	