



Lilycroft News

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been great to see so many parents attending our recent round of Open Classroom sessions. We hope that you find them enjoyable and that you get to see and hear more about your child's learning.

We hope to see you all again at our Parent's evening on 5th or 6th of March. This is another key opportunity for us to work together to help your child's progress. Thank you for making the time and we will look forward to seeing you there.

Leah Florence
Headteacher

Attendance and Appointments

You may have seen the Department for Education's 'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts' campaign to raise awareness of the importance of school attendance and to highlight the benefits beyond attainment, such as friendships and well-being. Their campaign is targeted at preventable, odd days of absence—or 'avoidable absence'.

We understand that there may be occasions when you need to take your child out of school for medical appointments. However, we would ask that these appointments are made out of school hours where possible, if the child is well enough to do so. We will also ask for confirmation of these appointments at the school office.

School opens at 8:40, please bring your child to school for that time—it is very disruptive to the learning of others when they are brought late to the main office.

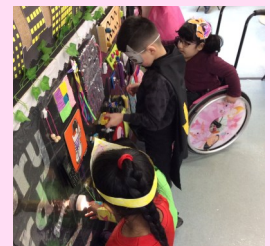
Reception Update

Reception have had an action packed half term so far. They have been learning about Superheroes and learning all the different ways that we can be superheroes everyday. They loved dressing up and being inspired to write their own superhero stories.

Children in RDC got a new sensory board design by Mrs Hussain—the children use it and work hard on their fine motor skills but have so much fun at the same time!

The children have also had fun baking and using their maths skills to count and measure out key ingredients to bake delicious things.

Finally this week— they have been learning all about Chinese New Year and experiencing different cuisines and traditions.



Our number one priority is ensuring that all children and adults are safe.
Please do talk to any member of staff if you have any worries for yourself or others in our community.

Children's Mental Health Week

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is 'My Voice Matters'. It is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. When we feel empowered, this can have a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children and young people who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem.

The year Place2Be, the charity that started Mental Health Week about 10 years ago, wants children of all ages, background and abilities to be empowered to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing. During Children's Mental Health Week, all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, should be able to say and believe—'My Voice Matters'.



Stars of the Week

Each week the teachers choose 2 stars of the week and they are given a certificate. To be a star of the week you have to have been seen doing something incredible in school. These children have done something amazing this week:

6K—Hojar and Raees

6A—Ayaan and Zoha

5M—Rayyan and Ayat

5A—Ibrahim and Azian

4J—Simran and Hassan

4SA—Abdul Rahman and all of 4SA

3E—Adeena and Ayaan

3F—Anna and Madeeha

TTRS Maths Stars

Fastest Speed

1. Fatima R (6A) 2. Muhammed Zain (5A) 3. Aliza Adil (2K)

Best Class attendance

6A—94.0%



Dates for your Diary for Spring

Remember learning begins in class at 8:40am everyday.

First day Spring 2: Monday 19th February

Last day Spring 2: Thursday 28th March

Summer term

First day Summer term 1—Monday 15th April

Bank holiday—Monday 6th May—school closed

Last day Summer 1—Friday 24th May

First day Summer 2—Monday 3rd June

Last day on Summer 2—Monday 21st July

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 with 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 birthday.

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.



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.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday