

St Martin's Newsletter



SPRING TERM - Friday 24th January

NSPCC Number Day

On Friday 7th February we will be celebrating NSPCC number day to raise money for the NSPCC. For this day the children can 'Dress up for digits' by wearing their own clothes with an item of clothing with a number on for a donation of £1 to be paid on the gateway app.



St Martin's Stars

Well done to everyone who got a certificate this week.

Purple Tie certificates are given for children who embody our rules of being Kind Respectful and Responsible.

Nursery: Star-	Daisy H
Value-	Archie P
YEAR R: Star-	Isla B
Purple tie-	Riley J
Value-	Reuben P
YEAR 1: Star-	Ellenor MK
Purple tie-	Fraser H
Value-	Theo F
YEAR 2: Star-	Alice W
Purple tie-	Dylan W
Value-	Teddy S
YEAR 3: Star-	Taylor-James P
Purple tie-	Keira M
Value-	Louis T
YEAR 4: Star-	Sapphire R
Purple tie-	Kai A
Value-	Quie-Andrew D
YEAR 5: Star-	Laurence J
Purple tie-	Noah MC
Value-	Chloe M
YEAR 6: Star-	Maisie J
Purple tie-	Laura R
Value-	Olivia S

World Book Day

World book day is on Thursday 6th March, to give parents plenty of opportunity to sort costumes here are the themes for each class this year:

Pre-School and Reception – Dress as pirates.

Y1 and Y2 – animals from books.

Y3 – based around the book Stone Age Boy – Can be modern day or prehistoric i.e. cave people.

Y4 – Magical creatures i.e. witches, wizards, fairies, dragons etc.

Y5 – Characters from Road Dahl books – Willy Wonka, BFG, Matilda, The Twits, etc.

Y6 – Villains from books e.g Voldermort, Count Olaf, Miss Trunchbull, Cruella De Vil, The White Witch etc.

Attendance Awards

Y2 and Y4 missed their attendance rewards for achieving all their puzzle pieces last week due to the snow so their rewards have been moved to:

Y4 - Monday 27th January - The children should wear own clothes, bring in a game from home (no electronics) and there will be a movie in the afternoon.

Y2 – Friday 31st January – The children should wear own clothes, bring in a teddy and they will have a film and a cake in the afternoon.

Attendance

This week we have had an amazing week for attendance at 97.14%. All classes except 2 received their puzzle pieces for BOTH Attendance and Punctuality!!!!

Thank you and well done! 😊

Attendance

Nursery - 98% 4 Lates

Year R - 97% 1 Lates

Year 1 - 94% 3 Lates

Year 2 - 97% 4 Lates

Year 3 - 97% 10 Lates

Year 4 - 97% 2 Lates

Year 5 - 96% 11 Lates

Year 6 - 97% 5 Lates

Just 2 classes with less than 10 lates

Well done to year 5, this weeks Dojo Champs

Anyone who comes into school after 8:50am is marked as late. Please try to be an attendance hero 😊.

For Parents

Y4 and Y2 - Mass Wednesday 29th Jan 10am

Y5 - Assembly Friday 31st Jan 9am

This Week

We had a fabulous time with Rock Kidz on Tuesday learning about keeping our minds strong and the importance of good mental health and today we are celebrating the launch of the Jubilee year. As a school in the most fantastic way, coming together to do a flash mob about HOPE! Photographs are available on social media.

Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the [weekly Gospel's](#) with their families.

Safety Advice

This free guide explores the potential online safety [risks of TikTok](#), letting you know how to safeguard children and young people who use the platform.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

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