



Ox Close Federation Newsletter Friday 10th November 2023 – Volume 8

Great Start

It was great to see the children back in school on Monday and hear all about their half term adventures. The children all settled back into routine very quickly and they have engaged in lots of exciting learning with the introduction of new topics. Over the next few weeks, leaders will be visiting classrooms to join in with lessons and talk to the children about their learning.

Pantomime

All of the Primary School children enjoyed a visit on Tuesday from M&M Theatre Productions. This has now become an annual event with this year's production being Snow White. It was a magical experience with lots of audience participation for the children, and staff! Everyone enjoyed the performance and it was lovely to be together for this event.

Anti-Bullying Week - Monday 13th - Friday 17th November

As you are aware, we take any bullying very seriously across the Federation and so feel that it is important to spread the message of the national Anti-Bullying Week to our whole community. This year's theme is *Make Noise About*. This means that we need to talk about bullying if we experience it, raise concerns with adults if we see any bullying happen and also shout about and celebrate our differences so that bullying can't happen! So, this year we are taking part in **Odd Socks Day** on Monday 13th November. Come to school wearing odd socks (and your normal uniform of course!)



and celebrate the fact that we are all different - life would be boring if we were all the same! The children will also be taking part in some other Anti-Bullying activities throughout the week, ending in our **Pyjamas for Pudsey** day on Friday 17th November for Children In Need - what a way to end the week where we make sure we look after everyone - no matter what they look like, what they wear, what they believe or who they love.

Dogs Trust

This week, Suzie from Dog's Trust came into school to lead an assembly and to work with children in their classes. She spoke to the children about safety around dogs and there was lots of role play for the children to get involved with. For those children who have not taken part in a workshop there is an additional day next Wednesday.



Speed on Ox Close Crescent

We have been made aware of incidents this week where cars have been travelling at significant speed along the road during our busiest times, drop off and pick up. I would be grateful if parents/carers could be mindful of their speed during these times as none of us want an accident to occur. If anyone does witness inappropriate driving or parking, then this can be reported to the Police via 101.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Year 1	Myles A	Year 4	Noah M
Year 2	Kyle E	Year 5	Miles K
Year 3	Harper S	Year 6	Aria M

Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 94.4% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 3 with 97.7%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 95.8%.

Punctuality

The Primary starts at 8:45am. Please ensure that your child is at school on time so that they do not miss out on any learning. This week, we have had 434 late minutes – this is a significant amount of lost learning time.

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 21 st November	Nursery – Photograph Day
Monday 27 th November	PD Day – Nursery and School Closed
Friday 1 st December	Nursery – Santa Stay and Play Workshop
Wednesday 6 th December	10am and 2:30pm Reception Nativity
Monday 11 th December	10am and 5pm Year 3/4 Carol Concert
Tuesday 12 th December	10am and 5pm Year 1/2 Christmas Show
Wednesday 13 th December	10am and 2pm Nursery Christmas Songs
Thursday 14 th December	10am and 5pm Year 5/6 Christmas Show
Tuesday 19 th December	3:15pm – Nursery and School close for Christmas
Thursday 4 th January 2024	Children back to Nursery and School

OPEN EVENTS



Would you like to find out more about Springmoor Grange School? Do you have a child due to start Nursery or School?

We are very excited that Ox Close will move to a fabulous new school, Springmoor Grange School, in September 2024.

We would like to invite families to join us at our open events. It will be a chance for you to view the plans and have a virtual tour of Springmoor Grange, have discussions with staff and look around our Nursery and School.

Thursday 16th November 5pm - Tour
Tuesday 21st November 5pm - Tour
Thursday 30th November 10am - Tour

We look forward to welcoming you.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

NURTURING AND ASPIRING ETHOS

WELCOMING STAFF

EXCELLENT BEHAVIOUR

INCLUSIVE PROVISION

COMMUNITY LINKS

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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 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-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-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 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.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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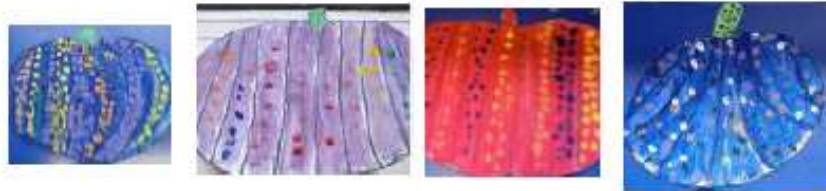
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Autumn 1 in 1/2R



In Art we explored the work of land artist Andy Goldsworthy and took inspiration from his work to create our own land art. We also explored using a range of different media to make drawings of leaves and autumn objects. We especially enjoyed using Brusho Colour Crystals to learn how to make wax resist artwork.

We used the Superpower of Looking to explore and learn about the artist Yayoi Kusama and enjoyed creating our own painted pumpkin designs.



In History we learned about George Stephenson and enjoyed a fantastic visit to Locomotion museum. We even took a ride on a train to get there! We saw George Stephenson's rocket which we know lots of facts about.



In science, we explored materials and their properties. We fed our class material monster different objects that are made of different materials and have a range of properties. Then we used different materials to make our own material monsters.



In maths we started our work on addition. We have used part whole models and 'first, then, now' stories with counters to support our understanding. We will be continuing work on addition this half term moving on to addition fact families.

In English, we have been working with a range of texts and text types. We have created class story maps to help up with storytelling. We've worked as a team to write persuasively and we've also created some brilliant acoustic poems.

