

## Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 37

30<sup>th</sup> June 2023



[www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk](http://www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk)



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

### Headteacher's Introduction

I am sure you will agree that Sports Day was a roaring success! I was so impressed by the positive attitude, excellent effort and superb sportsmanship on show. Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to attend and spectate at the event. Thank you for respecting our boundary lines and for being fantastic motivators for the children.

A really special thank you and well done to all the staff who helped on the day. Without their efforts to coordinate all the activities, move the children around the stations and support them in their efforts - it just wouldn't have been the success it was.

We have been really overwhelmed with the huge number of positive messages and comments we have received about Sports Day. Sport is something that can bring people together and spark joy in a community - and I really feel that is what has happened. We're already looking forward to next year's event!

The children at TJLS continue to amaze me - and they were absolutely superb on Sports Day.

It was a very proud day for the TJLS community.

*Simon Bolger  
Headteacher*

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### Remembering Avril Stacey

Today, TJLS and the wider Lidlington community said goodbye to Avril Stacey. Avril was a very well-known and well-loved resident of the village. She has been a friend of TJLS for a number of years - and many of her family members attended the school.

Presently, we have three members of staff who are close relations of Avril - and we as a school wanted to acknowledge her passing and show our support to the family.

Our thoughts are with the family at this time.

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### Pre-School Sports Day - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July

- Please drop your children off as normal, then make your way around to the field.
- The gates will be locked at 9.10am.
- The event will start at 9.15am.
- We anticipate for this event to last no longer than one hour.
- If your child doesn't usually attend Pre-School on this day, then you are welcome to bring them to this event. Please can you send Miss Turner a message on Class Dojo if you are planning to bring your child to this event.
- Our Reception children will join parents/carers as spectating supporters for this event.

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### Whipsnade Zoo - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Thank you to all the parents/carers who have completed the consent form and made their payment. If you haven't already done this, [please click here to complete the form and give your consent](#).

The last day for consent and payment is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. If we do not have sufficient contributions then the trip will not be able to go ahead - and if we do not have consent - then children will not be able to attend.

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### School Picnic - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 1.30pm

- On this day, parents/carers will be invited to join their children for an afternoon tea picnic.
- Children will have their lunchtime in school as normal until 1pm.
- Parents/carers can join us on the field at 1.30pm
- Please enter via the usual playground gate - and note this gate will be locked at 1.40pm.
- You are welcome to bring any sandwiches or cakes along to enjoy as a family. We will provide juice/water for all children and there will be an ice lolly for each child gifted by the PTFA.
- After the food and drink part of the afternoon, the children will come together at 2.15pm to sing a range of songs they have learned over the last year.
- We aim to finish by 3pm - at which point if you are in attendance you will be able to take your children home. Please do not leave the school premises with your child until they have been dismissed by the class teachers.
- Children without family attending or going to after school club will be dismissed as normal.
- If you, or another family member, is unable to attend this event then you can arrange for your child to sit with another family (*please let us know this in advance*) - if this is not an option then we will make provision for staff members to join these children. They will then be dismissed as normal at the end of the school day.

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### PTFA Inflatable Fun Day - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

- On this day, our PTFA have arranged for inflatable play equipment to be set up on the field for our children to enjoy as an end of year treat.
- Tickets are now available to purchase - and order forms were sent home with children this week.
- Please return any orders to the front office or give directly to a member of the PTFA.

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### Weekly Awards

This week's winners are:

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Lana	George	Felix
Year 1	Beji	Monty	Grace
Year 2	Sophia	Brody	Tabatha
Year 3	Lacey	Arya	Keira
Year 4	Elliott	Matthew	Oscar

This week's **Golden Brush** winner for having the tidiest classroom and learning area is **Year 3 - Owl Class**.

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### Silver Award - 40 House Points

Well done to:

- Keira and Lacey - Y3
- Hettie - Y4

### Gold Award - 60 House Points

Well done to:

- Sophia - Y2
- Seija - Y4

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### House Points

In the Summer term the House Shield is awarded to the House that has collected the most House Points overall for the academic year. The current standings for the whole year are:



1673 points



1716 points



1846 points



1753 points

The last day to collect House Points will be Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July, with the overall winner announced in assembly on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July. The winning House will have a 'House Colour Day' on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

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### Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance  
for this week - **97%**  
(National attendance is **96.4%**)

### Duggee The Every Day Dog

Awarded to the class with the  
best attendance all week.

Fox Class - Year 1  
Owl Class - Year 3

**Both classes achieved 100% attendance!**

*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

*The aim of our curriculum is to open doors of opportunity for our children*

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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

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## Dates for your diary - new dates added will be highlighted in yellow

7 <sup>th</sup> July	Pre-School Sports Day
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Art Week
11 <sup>th</sup> July	School trip to Whipsnade Zoo - Reception and Years 1-4
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition morning - meet your new teacher
12 <sup>th</sup> July	School Picnic
14 <sup>th</sup> July	PTFA Inflatable Fun Day
14 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year reports sent out to parents and carers
17 <sup>th</sup> July	SPLAT - your child can share their learning from this year with you - 3.20-3.50pm
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition morning - meet your new teacher
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Leaving Assembly - 9.15am
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of school and non-uniform day
21 <sup>st</sup> July	School closes for summer holidays

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