

## Principal's update

Having a sense of community unites us. Being involved in a community can make us feel part of something greater than ourselves. It can give us opportunities to connect with people and makes us feel safe and secure. Last month's Diwali Fair was a fantastic event, organised by and for our community.

At West Drayton Academy, the Christmas Fair is another event that encapsulates our community - the school unites to celebrate being part of a family who can support each other for the good of children's learning.

This year the Christmas Fair is on Friday 9th December, 3.15 - 5pm. As ever, these events cannot go ahead without sufficient support and all offers of help will be greatly appreciated. You can email the PTA directly to volunteer your time and/or skills or to book a table/stall: [wdapta@theparkfederation.org](mailto:wdapta@theparkfederation.org) Alternatively contact school via the school email or telephone.

## Children in Need

This year the children dressed as their superheroes and had a fabulous day, Well done to everyone for the effort put in for this great cause.

We have so far raised £140 for Children in Need! Thank you for your support. Please continue to donate your £1 on ParentPay.



## Dates for your diary

### 24th November

Y3 Visit to a temple  
9am - 1pm

### 25th November

Inset Day: School is closed for children.

### 30th November

Action Aid Cake Sale

### 2nd December

Nasal Flu Vaccination  
(Consent to be authorised online)

### 6th December

Strictly Speaking Final  
Y3 9:00am  
Y5 2:00 pm

### 8th December

Strictly Speaking Final  
Y4 2:00 pm

### 9th December

Christmas Fair 3:15 -  
5:00pm

### 15th December

Christmas Carols in the  
Yard

## Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:  
1st place: 6B with 96.6%  
2nd place: 3P with 96.3%  
3rd place: 5Z and 3A with 95.8%

**It will be a non-uniform day for 6B on Friday 2nd December. Well done!**

## Anti Bullying week

Bullying is the **repetitive, intentional** hurting of one person or group by another person or group.

On Monday this week, we all wore odd socks to school in support of Anti-Bullying week. In assembly, children were reminded of the definition of bullying and discussed a number of different scenarios where children had to identify if bullying was happening or not. The main message of the assembly was that we all have a responsibility to 'Reach Out' and seek support if we are being bullied, or if we have witnessed bullying happening to somebody else.



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

## Working with the Academy Council

Earlier this week, I met with the governors to complete a learning walk for maths. As the maths lead, I was keen to show the governors how we approach maths within our school. Before the learning walk, we discussed our aims for the walk and what our focus would be. This time around, I wanted to focus on how the teachers used a variety of resources within the classroom and the vocabulary that the children used. During the walk, teachers showcased using a variety of resources such as dienes and fraction strips. The governors were able to see a range of learning from across the school and saw the developing working walls within classrooms. Following this learning walk, we are going to be having a whole school focus on developing the children's use of maths vocabulary. We want to ensure that the children use the correct vocabulary and explain their answers in full sentences.

## Road Safety Week

All week children across school engaged in Road Safety week lessons. When out in the community, please reinforce the key messages taught and help your child apply this new knowledge in a practical way. Children often mimic the behaviour of parents and carers, so it is vital to be consistent and put into practice safe crossing techniques.

Key Messages for children:

- Use safer crossing places
- Practice Stop, Look, Listen and Think
- Be bright, be safe, be seen
- Age 7+ apply the [Green Cross Code](#)
- Check driveways for moving vehicles and driveway safety



## Christmas Cake Sale

Thursday 24th November

Dear Parent / Carer

In support of our ActionAid charity, we are holding a Christmas Cake sale on **Wednesday 30th November 2022**.

We would very much appreciate your help with this event by donating some cakes, cookies, muffins, and other sweet treats for the sale. If you are able to do so please deliver them to your child's class by Wednesday 30th November at the start of the school day.

**We welcome homemade and shop-bought cakes.**

*Please can we ask for nut-free recipes to be used.*

**The cakes will be priced from 50p and will be on sale during the pupil's breaktime with remaining cakes being sold after school.**

As a reward, the class with the most donations will have a non-school uniform day on Friday 2nd December as recognition for their charitable contribution.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Special Menu**  
**Christmas**  
13th December

Roast Turkey served with  
Chipolata Sausage &  
Herby Gravy

Cranberry & Roasted  
vegetable Wellington (G) *ve*

Rosemary Roasted Potatoes *ve*

Fresh Carrots & Steamed  
Peas *ve*

Chocolate Christmas  
Pudding (G, MK, E) *v*

**BMI & BM2**  
*v* - Suitable for vegetarians  
*ve* - Suitable for vegans & vegetarians  
 Allergen Key -  
 CAPITAL LETTERS - contains, lower case - may contain  
 Celery and celeriac (C), Crustaceans/Shellfish (CR), Eggs (E), Fish (F), Gluten (G), Lactin (L), Milk (MK), Nuts (N), Mustard (M), Peas (P), Sesame Seeds (SE), Soya and Soya products (SO), Sulphites (SU)

**pabulummm**  
HONESTLY GOOD FOOD



# West Drayton Academy Newsletter

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November 25th, 2022  
Edition 9

BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE

## 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 you more follow, "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.

### 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

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

### 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.



BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE  
Unlocking children's potential by knowing them, believing in them and providing opportunities to succeed