



# Parents' Weekly Newsletter

*'Thriving to achieve our best - together'*

12th November 2021



Message from the Head Teacher...

This week, it has been great to see our children refreshed and ready to learn after Guy Fawkes bonfire celebrations. On behalf of the Governors, our staff body and myself, thank you for ensuring that children in KS3 are equipped with face coverings when in communal indoor spaces and your continued support and understanding. We hope that these measures will be relaxed once the transmission rate locally reduces and we can again operate with greater freedom, however, the safety of our community remains at the heart of every decision made in our school. I will of course let you know when any changes are agreed but for the coming week please continue to be vigilant and do not send your child into school if they present with COVID symptoms. I also want to say thank you to all our fantastic year 7 and 8 children who continue to carry out their twice weekly LFDs. This has definitely helped keep the school open to our children and is greatly appreciated.

On Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021, children across all year groups will be representing our school at the Remembrance Service in West Moors to lay a wreath at the Petwyn as a mark of respect for all those who lost their lives in war and conflict. **'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them.'**

Dr Deborah Craddock

## Rights Respecting News

### Article of the Week

This week's article of the week focussed on Remembrance Day, which was marked on Thursday the 11th of November. We discussed that it is an opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life in all conflict and wars.

One article provided a particularly strong link this week: Article 38 – War and Armed Conflicts. This article means that Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces and that Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflicts.

During our weekly assembly, we asked the children, 'Why is it important to remember and commemorate those who have fought in wars?' and 'How does this link to article 38 in the CRC?' Here are some of the responses shared:

- It's important to remember and thank those who have fought to keep children safe.
- If we forget about wars that have protected our way of life, we might make the same mistakes again.
- Children have a right to be protected during armed conflicts.
- Children under 15 should not take part in war.

It is important to consider ways to avoid war and to resolve conflict.



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# Anti-Bullying Week 2021

15-19 Nov 2021

## Odd Socks Day – Monday 15th November

The school will be taking part in Odd Socks Day on Monday 15th November to mark the start of Antibullying Week. Children are invited to wear odd socks to school. This is a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Antibullying Week. During Anti-Bullying week, tutor groups will be carrying out tutor based activities. As a school, we will be focussing on 'One Kind Word' and ways that we can spread kindness.



## RNLI—SAFETY EDUCATION NEAR WATER

This week, David from the RNLI led a virtual assembly with the focus on the RNLI and what it does with particular emphasis on their activities in Poole harbour and the Bournemouth beaches. These were illustrated with a few short videos followed by discussion on how to keep safe around water, including inland water and rivers.



## FUN IN FOREST SCHOOL

A lovely day learning outdoors at Forest School. Year 7 and Year 8 really worked well as a team, to make their smores.



## REMEMBRANCE

As a whole school, we observed a two minute silence to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. Thank you to Pedro, from Year 5, who beautifully read 'In Flanders Fields.'



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## ROAD SAFETY WITH DORSET POLICE

Yesterday afternoon, KS3 joined a virtual webinar lead by the Dorset Police Road Safety Education staff. The children learnt about how to keep safe when travelling to and from school. Some key messages received, thank you.



## THE TALENT FOUNDRY

The Talent Foundry, run by Barclay's, joined our KS3 today to enlighten and advise them on how to be resilient and cope with set-backs in life, equipping them with positive approaches towards difficult situations.



## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

In Design and Technology lessons during this week, our children have been creating beautiful poppies from recyclable materials, which have been displayed outside our school gates.



## INVASION AT WEST MOORS SCHOOL

This week Year 6 took part in an amazing entry day, as Viking warriors arrived in Year 6. They spent their time designing and creating their personal Viking shields as well as busily writing rune messages onto their stone tablets. 6.



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## **ONLINE SAFETY ALERT AND GUIDANCE**

'Squid Game – Online Safety Alert & Guidance for Parents. 'The series is certified 15 and depicts sex scenes, nudity, extreme violence, self-harm, suicide and bad language. [Click here.](#)



## **Dropping off children at the start of the day.**

Many children walk to school, which is good training and helps to develop road sense. If you bring them by car, please drop your children in a safe place near the school; and avoid stopping near the school entrances. Please note that the **school gates open at 8-25am and closes again at 8-35am promptly.** This is to ensure the school site is secure at the start of the school day. Please be aware that all staff are included in a morning staff briefing and are not available to supervise children before 8-25am. Please do not leave children onsite unsupervised before this time unless you are attending the school 'breakfast club'. Thank you for your support in keeping all the children safe.

## **Swimming Lessons begin for Year 5 and Year 7**

As part of the National Curriculum, this week both year 5 and year 7 impressed us, as they excitedly left school to attend swimming lessons, at Ferndown Leisure Centre. The children amazed the staff, as they all encouraged each other, applauding and clapping. One by one. each pupil attempted to swim across the pool during the assessment phase. Every one of you is a credit to our school.

## **Communication**

A reminder that at West Moors Middle School, we use our school website, email and our Twitter page to communicate and share information with you.

Email: [office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk)

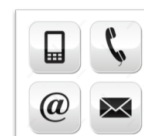
School Website: <https://westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk>

Twitter page: [https://twitter.com/west\\_moors](https://twitter.com/west_moors)

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/WestMoorsMiddleSchool/)

[WestMoorsMiddleSchool/](https://www.facebook.com/WestMoorsMiddleSchool/)

Finally, please also look out for **all key information** to parents such as events information, newsletters, trips and special events using the parent mail system.



## **School Year: Term Dates & Holidays 2021/22**

### **Autumn Term 2021**

Inset Day Friday 3rd December  
Term ends Friday 17th December

### **Spring Term 2022:**

Term starts for students on Tuesday 4th January  
Inset Day Monday 31st January  
Term ends on Friday 18th February  
Term starts for students on Monday 28th February  
Term ends for students on Friday 8th April

### **Summer Term 2022**

Term starts for students on Monday 25th April  
Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May – school closed  
Term ends on Friday 27th May  
Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday 6th June 2022  
Term starts for students on Tuesday 7th June  
Inset Day Friday 1st July  
Term ends on Friday 22nd July

### **Inset Days:**

Friday 3rd December 2021  
Monday 31st January 2022  
Friday 1st July 2022



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-synching and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2018 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

18

CENSORED

## EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-synching and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

WR44+1

## TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Li Hua X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be "the next big thing" will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



## HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but because of the abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

## ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

## IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase "TikTok coins", which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 88p to an eye-watering £66 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

### MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 18s' accounts to "private". Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The "duet" (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and "duet" (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 18s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

### LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

"Family Pairing" lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

### USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's "Digital Wellbeing" section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using "Restricted Mode". This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

### MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the "Digital Wellbeing" section. Under "Screen Time Management", you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

### Meet Our Expert

Parveen Hour is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Click, a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



NOS  
National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCE: TikTok.com



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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