



Newsletter

September 2023

Headteacher Messages

I would like to start by saying how incredibly proud I am of our whole school community for the continued energy, resilience and passion with which pupils, staff, Governors and our wider school community have approached this year.

I do hope you are well, and your children have enjoyed their first weeks back at school. We have certainly enjoyed seeing them. The children have made an excellent start to our new school term demonstrating an enthusiastic, positive and cooperative attitude to their learning.

I am delighted at how smart they look in their uniform, which they are wearing with pride and would like to thank parents for your support in making this happen. I have been incredibly proud to walk around the school this week.

Safeguarding

The NSPCC states that safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm

Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

What can you do to help with safeguarding? If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child, please speak to us and share your concerns. Your information may help that child and family receive the help and support that they need to keep them safe. If you feel a child is at risk of immediate harm or danger, then please contact the police immediately on 999.

Best wishes
Sarah

Upcoming Events

FOLCS tuck shop & Pokeman card sale	29 th Sept
Pro Strike	10 th Oct
Wear red for anti racism day	20 th Oct
FOLCS glow party evening	20 th Oct
Pro Strike	10 th Oct
Yr 4&5 trip to Silverstone Museum	13 th Nov
Odd sock day for anti bullying	13 th Nov
Children in Need - dress in spots	17 th Nov
Christmas choir at school, Christmas light switch on	3 rd Dec
FOLCS Christmas Panto	8 th Dec
Christingle at St Peters Church	12 th Dec
FOLCS breakfast with Santa	14 th Dec
FOLCS breakfast with Santa	15 th Dec
Christmas Choir at St Peters Church	19 th Dec

Attendance Figures

Please can we remind you that school starts at 8.45am every day.

Children should be here by 9.00am at the latest.

Registers close at 9.05am and if your child arrives after that time they will be marked as late – thank you

15.09.23	
Y1	94%
Y2	99%
Y3	95%
Y4	92%
Y5	100%
Y6	92%

22.09.23	
Y1	95%
Y2	96%
Y3	93%
Y4	90%
Y5	93%
Y6	91%



Pro Strike has been re-scheduled for Wednesday the 11th October 2023

Please continue to get your Sponsorship Forms completed and returned to school, money raised will be going towards the new playground equipment.

FOLCS (Friends of London Colney School)

Friends of London Colney School are a small but dedicated group of relatives of pupils who organise events to fundraise for the school. If you are interested in joining in, in any way you can, please get in touch with us via the School Office.

Please see the dates below for exciting events we have coming up:

- 29th September FOLCS tuck shop and pokemon card sale after school
- 11th October FOLCS pro strike
- 20th October FOLCS Glow Party (not sure on timings yet)
- 8th December FOLCS Panto (details to follow)
- 14th & 15th December FOLCS breakfast with Santa

*note - every Tuesday after year group assembly there will be a coffee afternoon with the PTA (this is up until half term)

Thank you
FOLCS

Please be mindful of the building work that is going on across the road from us. It changes daily, but there are always heavy construction vehicles manoeuvring and various different parking restrictions in place. We ask that you park away from school and walk up to the gate to help ease any congestion and keep it safe for all of the children. Building work will continue for the foreseeable future so please be patient and mindful of others – thank you.

REMINDER – DO NOT PARK OR STOP IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE GATES.


It is dangerous, illegal and inconsiderate to our school community and puts our children in danger. You may think it's ok to do it for a few minutes but it is not, thank you.

We'd like to thank you all for your continued daily support, please do come and speak to us about any issue, good or bad.

Our school website is: www.londoncolney.herts.sch.uk

Our school email is: admin@londoncolney.herts.sch.uk

Our school telephone no is: 01727 823283

London Colney Primary & Nursery School - Term Dates 2023/2024																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
September 2023 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		October 2023 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						November 2023 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				December 2023 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	 Autumn Term 21.12.23 finish 1.30pm						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																																																																											
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																																																																											
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																																																																											
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																																																																											
25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																																																																												
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
						1																																																																																																																																																																																																											
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																																																																																																																											
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																																																																																																																											
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																																																																																																																											
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																																																																																																																											
30	31																																																																																																																																																																																																																
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																																																																																											
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																																																																																											
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																																																																																											
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																																																																																											
27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																																																																														
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																																																																											
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																																																																											
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																																																																											
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																																																																											
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																																																											
January 2024 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					February 2024 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29				March 2024 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	April 2024 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						Spring Term 28.03.24 finish 1.30pm													
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																																																																																																																											
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																																																																																																																											
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																																																																																																																											
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																																																																											
29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																																																															
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
			1	2	3	4																																																																																																																																																																																																											
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																																																																																																											
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																																																																																																																											
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																																																																																																																											
26	27	28	29																																																																																																																																																																																																														
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																																																																											
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																																																																											
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																																																																											
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																																																																											
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																																																											
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																																																																																																																											
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																																																																																																																											
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																																																																																																																											
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																																																																											
29	30																																																																																																																																																																																																																
May 2024 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			June 2024 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su					1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	July 2024 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					August 2024 <table border="1"> <tr><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td><td>Su</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>							Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		Summer Term 18.07.24 finish 1.30pm													
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																																																																																											
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																																																																																											
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																																																																																											
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																																																																																											
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																																																													
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
				1	2																																																																																																																																																																																																												
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																																																																																																																											
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																																																																																																																											
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																																																																																																																											
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																																																																											
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																																																																																																																											
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																																																																																																																											
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																																																																																																																											
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																																																																											
29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																																																															
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su																																																																																																																																																																																																											
			1	2	3	4																																																																																																																																																																																																											
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																																																																																																											
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																																																																																																																											
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																																																																																																																											
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																																																												
Calendar Key <table border="1"> <tr><td>Term Time</td></tr> <tr><td>School Holidays</td></tr> <tr><td>Bank Holidays</td></tr> <tr><td>Inset Days</td></tr> <tr><td>Occasional Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Secondary Transition Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Swimming Year 4</td></tr> </table>							Term Time	School Holidays	Bank Holidays	Inset Days	Occasional Day	Secondary Transition Day	Swimming Year 4	Notable Dates 1 Sept 2023 - Start of 2023/2024 Term 11 July 2024 - Secondary Transition Day 23 July 2024 - Last school day of 2023/2024							<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Autumn Term =</td> <td>1 September - 20 October 2023</td> <td>36 days</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>30 October - 21 December 2023</td> <td>38 days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spring Term =</td> <td>4 January - 16 February 2024</td> <td>32 days</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>26 February - 28 March 2024</td> <td>24 days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Summer Term =</td> <td>15 April - 24 May 2024</td> <td>29 days</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3 June - 23 July 2024</td> <td>37 days</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>196 days</td> </tr> </table>							Autumn Term =	1 September - 20 October 2023	36 days		30 October - 21 December 2023	38 days	Spring Term =	4 January - 16 February 2024	32 days		26 February - 28 March 2024	24 days	Summer Term =	15 April - 24 May 2024	29 days		3 June - 23 July 2024	37 days			196 days																																																																																																																																																																	
Term Time																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
School Holidays																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Bank Holidays																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Inset Days																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Occasional Day																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Secondary Transition Day																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Swimming Year 4																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Autumn Term =	1 September - 20 October 2023	36 days																																																																																																																																																																																																															
	30 October - 21 December 2023	38 days																																																																																																																																																																																																															
Spring Term =	4 January - 16 February 2024	32 days																																																																																																																																																																																																															
	26 February - 28 March 2024	24 days																																																																																																																																																																																																															
Summer Term =	15 April - 24 May 2024	29 days																																																																																																																																																																																																															
	3 June - 23 July 2024	37 days																																																																																																																																																																																																															
		196 days																																																																																																																																																																																																															
190 Pupil Days, 5 Inset/Teacher Training Days, 1 Occasional Day																																																																																																																																																																																																																	

HERE IS A REMINDER OF OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our school uniform gives our children a sense of belonging. It is designed to be both smart and practical. It is expected that children attending London Colney Primary & Nursery School comply with these guidelines.

Winter Uniform

- Grey or black trousers, plain black leggings, skirt or pinafore
- Plain white, royal blue or sky blue polo shirt
- Royal Blue jumper, cardigan, sweatshirt or fleece with school logo (logo optional)
- Grey or white socks or grey tights
- Flat black shoes or trainers, no logos or colours on footwear
If children cannot tie their own laces, they should have shoes with Velcro fastening
- Small plain blue, white or black hairbands or ribbons

Summer Uniform

- Grey shorts or trousers, white or royal blue polo shirt and grey or white socks
- Blue and white checked or striped dress, blue cardigan, white or grey socks
- Sensible shoes (no sliders, flip flops or crocs)
- Hat or cap
- Sun lotion to be applied before school

Active PE Uniform

- Black jogging bottoms, shorts or leggings (*these must be plain, no logos or stripes/colours*)
- White or royal blue t-shirt
- Blue or black sweatshirt if it is cold (no hoodies)
- Plain black trainers, no logos, stripes or patterns

Important Information

- Make up, false eyelashes, nail varnish, false nails must not be worn in school.
- Smart watches must not be worn.
- No tattoos or temporary tattoos are allowed.
- Long hair should be tied back for safety reasons and to help prevent the spread of head lice.
- No jewellery to be worn, only small stud earrings are permitted.

Uniform is available from Smarty Schoolwear, 65 Town Centre, Hatfield, AL10 0JJ, email: info@smartyschoolwear.co.uk, <https://www.smartyschoolwear.co.uk/> 01707 263909

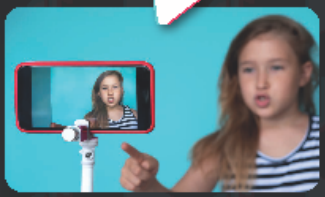


TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. Its main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-synching and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up to the app, it's possible to be about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are light-hearted or designed to make people laugh. However, there have been a number of videos reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and young people engaging in sexually suggestive content. More recently, suicide-themed related videos have been widely criticised. Given the volume of content uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to monitor everything and it can be common to come across explicit and age-inappropriate content on the 1st year feed when logging into the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-synching and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the popularity of young users here, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor Musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars. Logan Berg and Jacob Sartorius have been recognised as some through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their content is not set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and heavily entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Besides from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app content called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from 65p for 100 coins to an eye-watering 128.95 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different assets to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Asking your child to show the app first to see TikTok, make sure you take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have an open discussion, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour. Explain why they should think about what they're seeing and be positive and understanding. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Understandably, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of getting lots of attention, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the primary and safety screen by pressing the silhouette in the 'top' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be appropriate although it should be appropriate. Under the screen time management section, you can limit the daily allowed time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 45 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without venturing away the day.



MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Even if it doesn't make you popular, keep a close eye on what your child is viewing and sharing on TikTok. Whilst the app has restrictions built, videos can still slip through the net so it's important to regularly check in on what they're watching. Understanding and limiting the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with it. You could then even watch some videos with your child, turning it into a bonding opportunity also.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a relatively safe space for your child to express their views. However, in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognize and report content that isn't appropriate and put it on to come for you about what they have seen. TikTok offers users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management section, you can limit the daily allowed time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 45 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without venturing away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Smith is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working with in a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing on a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.



SOURCE: www.tiktok.com

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @nationalonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2020