

Book Oscars

Our Alverton Book Oscars took place yesterday on World Book Day and the whole school came dressed as a book character with some magnificent costumes on display. The Book Oscars are an important part of our school calendar and winning an Oscar is something which all children (and staff!) would love to do. The Ultimate Book Oscar was won by 'The Ice Monster' which was nominated by Eva in Year 2. Thanks once again to Mrs Clive and Mrs Petty who organised the event and to the team of TAs who transformed our school hall into Hollywood!



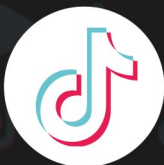
Truro & Penwith **Academy Trust**

This week, we welcomed the Headteachers from St Just and Sennen schools for our termly School and Headteacher Improvement Partner (SHIP) visit. They came to have a look at our progress with our key priority of Phonics, watching some Phonics sessions and talking with the children about how we are helping them with Phonics and reading and the difference this has made to them. Once again, this was a very positive visit and a chance to have external eyes validate the work we are doing.

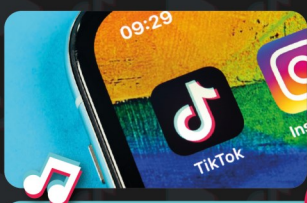
Online safety

Please see the information below with some excellent advice about TikTok. We will be publishing a different information page each week. All this information can be found on the National Online Safety website (a link to which can be found on our website).

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's 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 to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. 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



MATURE 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 for the app, it's possible to lie 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 lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' 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 undeniably young user base, 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 Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame 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 more and 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 account is 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 hugely 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

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis 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 DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. 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

Undoubtedly, 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 social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' 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 noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

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



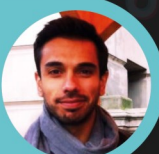
MODERATE SCREEN TIME

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 option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 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 wasting away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within 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 as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



NEW FOR 2020 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.



SOURCES: www.tiktok.com

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety 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: 20.02.2020

Swimming success

Twelve of our Year 3 and 4 pupils went to Penzance Leisure Centre this week to represent us in the annual swimming gala. They were fantastic and came back with a huge selection of medals having reached 14 out of 16 finals. We came first overall against 18 other schools. Well done to them all. The team was: Arthur, John, Seth, Harry, Thomas G, Louis, Isabella, Susie, Lily, Summer, Annie and Molly. Mrs Dennison who accompanied them was full of praise for their behaviour and team spirit.

St Piran Parade

Our Year 6 and some of our Year 5 band took part in the St Piran's Day Parade this week and were a credit to the school. They enjoyed dancing through the town and finished up at St John's Hall for a saffron bun.



Football news

On Thursday 27th February our team played Bodriggy in a 7-a-side League game. In this match we won 11-1 in our highest scoring game this season brilliantly captained by Rex. Our team played in our usual 1-2-1-3 formation with Zac M in goal who pulled off some amazing saves and in defence was Amon who defended exceptionally. George T scored two cracking goals and in centre midfield was Liam with two incredible goals. On the left was Dexter who made the goals happen and on the right was our captain Rex, the hatrick hero who put 3 shots in the back of the net. Our striker, Kyle, scored 4 goals. Jonah and George started on the bench but really gave the game the fun touch it needed.

Report by Zac M

Sport Relief

We will be fundraising for Sport Relief next week. Please could you send in a donation on the day your child is taking part.

On **Tuesday 10th March** EYFS and KS1 can wear sporty kit to school all day and will be having fun taking part in different sports in the morning.

KS2 will be able to come to school in their sports kit or sporty clothing on **Friday 13th March** and in the afternoon will be having fun at different activities in the sports boot camp.



Parents Evenings

Our Parents Evenings this term will be held next week and if you haven't booked your own appointment time online, one has been made for you and will have come home on paper in your child's bag. **If you cannot attend your parents meeting, please let us know either by email (secretary@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk) or by phoning 01736 364087.** This helps the teacher know whether to expect you or not.

If you have had or will be having a review meeting with Mrs Hughes and your child's class teacher, you won't need a parents evening meeting.

Club cancellations

ALL clubs will be cancelled next week **on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th March due to parents evenings** apart from morning Roller Skating club on Wednesday 11th.

The last Dance club this term is next **Thursday 12th March** as the hall is in use on 19th and 26th March.

ALL clubs finish on Friday 20th March for this term. New club letters will come home after Easter.

Government advice - Coronavirus

If you have any questions or would like further information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) please see the attached information from the Public Health Agency or go to the Government website:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

You can also phone the Education Coronavirus Helpline:

0800 046 8687

(opening hours: 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday)

Email:

DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Youth Strike for Climate Change March - Penzance

Friday 13th March

We will be taking a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils to the March next Friday and letters have come home if your child has been asked to come along.

If your child is not going with us and you would like to support the March by attending with your child please see the attached letter for more information about what to do on the day. You would be welcome to collect them from 10.30am, accompany them on the March and bring them back by the start of afternoon lessons by 1.10pm but please let the office know.

FOAS Easter Disco Thursday 19th March

EYFS & KS1 5-6pm

KS2 6.15-7.15pm

Cost £1.50 to include a drink & small Easter egg.

A reminder to please ensure that you collect your child at the end of the Disco from the reception area as we cannot allow them go outside to meet you in Toltuff Crescent.

FOAS would be very grateful for any volunteers who would be able to help with either or both Discos on the night. Please let the office know.



Lunch debts

The kitchen staff have advised us that a number of parents accrue several weeks' worth of debts on a regular basis. Please can you ensure that your child's lunches are either paid for on a daily or weekly basis and large debts are not built up with Caterlink.

Healthy tuck

Please can we remind all parents that tuck at breaktime should be a healthy snack such as fruit, vegetables, crackers or rice cakes. Crisps and sweet biscuits are not allowed to be eaten at breaktime.

Year 6 London trip - July 2020

A reminder that ALL payments for Year 6 London trip (£310 total) need to be made by 14th April at the latest.

Full payment is needed by the above date. If it is not paid in full by this date, we will cancel your child's place and refund any money you have already paid (less the deposit) with immediate effect.

Need a chat?

Come and have a cup of tea with Mrs Daylak if you have any questions or concerns about anything which might be affecting your child in school. You can find her any Monday to Thursday after school until 4pm. If you would rather make an appointment, please ask the office. She might even find you a biscuit to go with your tea!



Daisy's top tip tips no.2

Milk bottles!

When we went to the tip we were amazed by the mountains of plastic. Most of this mountain was made up of milk bottles. People are good at recycling their milk bottles – we've all got into the habit. But at the tip, in the summer, on a hot day the smell of the milk bottles is AWFUL. Thank goodness we went on a chilly day.



Plastic bottles – swill and squash! If you can rinse out your milk and stamp on the bottles they won't smell and you can fit more in the bag. Get the kids to do it!

Glass milk bottles are also making a comeback now. Instead of making a plastic bottle made from some recycled plastic and some new plastic, you can just use a glass bottle instead. These can be cleaned and reused again and again. The plastic bottle has to be made each time.

Thornes greengrocers in Causewayhead do milk in glass bottles – you fill them up from a fridge.

On Thursday mornings the Country Market in the St John's Hall (8.30-12pm) sell local milk in glass bottles.

Milk and More deliver to your doorstep in glass bottles – you can find them online.

It's more expensive than getting the big plastic bottles of milk from the supermarkets but can be more convenient (it arrives by magic at your door before breakfast), no bulky bottles in the recycling, and means you are reducing your waste and energy use.

We are a family of three – me, Greg and Sonny who's 6 – and we have 10 pints of milk a week (we go through MASSES of porridge. MASSES.) That's 120 of the big plastic bottles a year. So if lots of other families change to glass, or do some glass and some plastic, the big plastic mountain at the tip wouldn't be so enormous.

And if you keep with the plastic get your children to jump up and down on them!

Year 3 and Year 4 camp information sessions

Year 3 Eden camp

3.30pm on **Wednesday 18th March** in Lanyon classroom.

Year 4 Bude camp

8.15am on **Thursday 19th March** in Lanyon classroom.

Please come along for more information and to ask any questions.



The Learning Institute



**"I wanted to show my children that it's never too late." -
Claire**

Foundation degrees that are designed to fit in with work and family life. Pop in to our next open evening to find out more.
Recruiting now for September!

FdA Early Years Professional | FdSc Health and Wellbeing in Society

FdA Inclusive Education | FdA Learning and Education

FdSc Mental Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People

Where: Alverton Primary School

Penzance TR18 4QD

When: Tuesday 10th March

Drop in between: 4.00pm and 6.00pm

**degrees@learninginstitute.co.uk
www.learninginstitute.co.uk
01579 386123 | 01726 891807**



Our foundation degrees are accredited by the University of Worcester. All venues run subject to numbers.


The Learning Institute | Beacon Place
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STARS OF THE WEEK

Chobins	Jack G	for always being helpful, thoughtful, kind & hardworking
	Jack T	for his effort, perseverance & enjoyment with his reading
Puffins	Bella	for her happy, jolly nature & great effort in everything she does
	Charlie H	for his effort and perseverance in reading
Owls	Kieran	for fabulous writing about Mexico this week
Kingfishers	Mason	for putting fantastic effort into his super Mexican fact file writing
Trencrom	Amelia	for always being a star and putting 100% into everything
Lanyon	Alfred	for always working hard and being a delight to teach
Kerris	Todd	for super focus in all activities for the whole week
Bodrifty	Nat	for super effort in Maths - totally smashed it! Well done
Bosigran	Max	for making a tremendous effort with all his Maths
Kenidjack	Brook	for achieving full marks on her practice SATs tests
Dinnertime	Oliver H	for his delicious healthy lunches
PE Star	Isabella W	for fantastic sportsmanship during the swimming gala
	Summer	for fantastic sportsmanship during the swimming gala




CLASS ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Choughs	98.5%	2
Robins	98.0%	3
Puffins 	99.3%	1
Owls	97.5%	5
Kingfishers	97.9%	4
Trencrom	93.2%	11
Lanyon	97.4%	6
Kerris	96.7%	8
Bodrifty	97.2%	7
Bosigran	93.9%	9
Kenidjack	93.2%	11
Overall school attendance	96.5%	

Our collective target is 96.5%

Twitter

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter 
@alvertonschool to keep up-to-date with
all the exciting things that are going on.

DIARY DATES

March

9th-11th Parent Consultations – **no clubs this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**

13th Sharing assembly for Owls at 2.45pm—**POSTPONED**

19th FOAS Easter Disco – details to follow

20th **All clubs finish**

20th All music lessons finish

25th Last swimming for Year 5

FRIDAY 27th MARCH SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.15pm (normal time) FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAY

SUMMER TERM BEGINS ON TUESDAY 14th APRIL at 9am





DOES YOUR CHILD AND THEIR FRIENDS HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE ASTRONAUTS?

Wall to Wall Productions are looking for teams of 3 children (aged 10-12) to take part in a space travel action adventure gameshow.

Set in the world of astronaut training, the teams will participate in a series of thrilling physical and mental challenges.

One team will triumph and win a remarkable space prize package.

Application Deadline
SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 2020

For more information go to spaceadventurecasting.com

PARENTS MUST APPLY ON BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN

Must be 10-12 years of age as of 15th July 2020 and legal residents of the country from which they are applying.
Other eligibility requirements apply.