

An Accident Waiting to Happen?

The situation regarding traffic congestion outside of school has once again become a serious one. We have had a string of near misses reported over the past few weeks as well as several angry exchanges between local residents and parents who are still driving to the school gates, blocking drives etc.

There appear to be two main problems.

Firstly, the new car park was built as an alternative staff car park following the changes we made to separate pedestrians and cars at the entrance to the school. We also intended the new car park as a convenient drop off point for parents who were unable to walk for whatever reason e.g. those with disabled badges, the youngest nursery children or short term mobility problems.

Unfortunately, despite repeated requests, the car park is being used by far more parents and vehicles than it was ever intended for. This has resulted in the car park being identified as a major hazard for children and parents walking to school on the pavement at the car park entrance/exit.

We have therefore taken the decision, for reasons of safety, to close the car park between 8.30am and 9am and 2.45pm and 3.30pm. This means that for no cars, including staff vehicles, have been allowed in or out of the car park during these times today.

This has itself created a problem for those people identified earlier who need to use the car park. We will therefore be looking to put a member of staff at the car park entrance and operate a permit entry system for these parents.

The second issue is that since we have stopped positioning staff at the end of Toltuff Crescent, the volume of traffic has once again reached a level which is simply not safe or sustainable. Unfortunately, there are a number of reasons why we cannot return to the school monitoring traffic as a long-term solution.

As is frequently pointed out, Toltuff Crescent is a public highway, and there is no legal reason why vehicles cannot drive down it. There is, however, a genuine safety issue as the crescent is simply not able to cope with the volume of traffic using it.

We are looking to form a working group of parents, residents, staff and governors to look at this issue further and try to find a workable solution to the problem and if you have any suggestions or comments for this group to consider, we would like to hear from you. Please complete and return the form below:

Thank you for your continued support.

Suggestions/comments for traffic issues:

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Non uniform day - Friday 29th November

A reminder that there will be a non uniform day next **Friday 29th** in aid of the FOAS Christmas Fair. A letter with full details will be coming home on Monday. Please help us to raise as much as possible for FOAS funds by sending in a donation for the Fair, eg, a good quality toy, raffle prize, bottles and Christmas goodies, decorated jam jar, as new gifts or jewellery. The Christmas Fair itself is on Friday 6th December from 3.15pm in the hall.

Christmas tree decoration

Our Christmas tree arrives next week and will look very bare! Please could your child make a lovely decoration over the weekend and bring it in from next Thursday 28th to put onto the tree so it looks wonderful. Thank you.



Advent Service

Our Advent Service will be held on **Monday 2nd December** at 9.30am and will be followed by coffee and mince pies for parents. Please come along if you can and start the celebration of Christmas with us.



Flu immunisation

Please see the information below from Kernow Health about the flu immunisation taking place in school. If you would like your child immunised and haven't yet applied, please go online by 4th December. **Your child will not be given the nasal spray without your consent so if you do not wish them to have it done, you do not need to do anything.**

Date of Visit: Friday 6th December

School Code: EE142240

Link: <https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

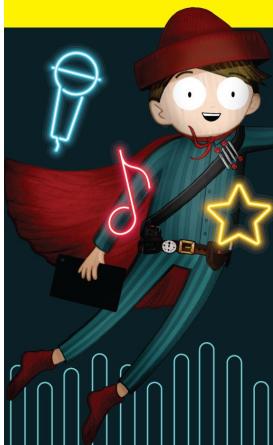
Tel No.: 01872 221105/06

Deadline to submit: Wednesday 4th December noon

Online safety

Please see the information below with some excellent advice about TikTok. We will be publishing a different information page each week.

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 global video community where users create, share and discover 'funny and memorable moments' via short video clips – typically about 15 seconds long. Videos can be 'spiced up' with special effect filters, stickers, music and sound clips. Currently one of the world's most popular apps, TikTok was formerly known as Musical.ly, before it was rebranded by the Chinese company ByteDance that acquired it in November 2017. If your child had previously had a Musical.ly account, all of their videos and personal settings will have automatically been moved to TikTok. In early 2019, TikTok was hit with a record \$5.7m (£4.2m) fine in the US over child data privacy concerns for its record keeping while under the Musical.ly brand.

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Edit date: 06/03/19



What parents need to know about TIKTOK

ONLINE PREDATORS

By default, users accounts are automatically set to public when they first create an account. TikTok encourages users to share creative expression through their videos, but if posted publicly, anyone in the world can see your child's homemade content. There have also been concerns the Chinese government could access data or sway public opinion through the app. If your child's profile is open, strangers can use the app to comment on your child's videos. While this isn't always sinister, it gives potential predators the ability to contact your child through the platform.

IN-APP PURCHASES

As with many apps, there's a paid element to TikTok. Users can buy virtual coins to be exchanged for virtual gifts – for example, if they like a specific video, your child can use coins to purchase emojis to show approval. These can be expensive and easily purchased – there is the option to buy 10,000 coins for £99.99 with a one-click buy button.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

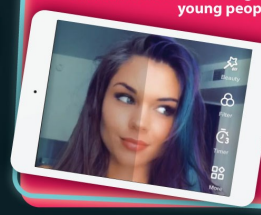
TikTok lets users lip-sync to their favourite songs and produce their own music videos. Some of the music choices contain swear words or sexual themes. So not only can children be exposed to potentially inappropriate content but they can broadcast themselves miming or singing these lyrics. In addition to this, some of the outfits and dance moves in videos can be overtly sexual and provocative. There have also been reports of some users sharing concerning content, such as videos that promote anorexia, porn, self-harm and violence.

BEING INFLUENCED

More than one third of children aged 6-17 consider 'social media stars' to be among their top role models. There are millions of creators on TikTok, showcasing their 'talents, moments and knowledge', from singing to dancing to stunts and comedy skits, which receive thousands of likes and comments from around the world, quickly turning people into 'stars'. There is the danger that children may develop unrealistic expectations of how they should look and behave on the app in order to become the next 'star'. They may have feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem or become swayed by certain opinions. On TikTok, there are always 'trending challenges' and hashtags that users can copy or build upon. Sometimes these challenges can pose risks to young people.



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Top Tips for Parents

DISCUSS THE PITFALLS OF OVERSHARING

Encourage your child to always think before they do, say, like or post anything online. Explain that their 'digital footprint' shapes their online reputation and the way that other people see them. Something they may find funny and entertaining now may impact them in the future. Talk about how to deal with peer pressure and how doing something they think will impress others could affect them. Remind them that they do not have to do anything they are not comfortable with. To ensure that there's no way of anyone tracking your child's location or identity, make it clear to them that they should never film a video in their school uniform or near a landmark that gives away where they live.

HANDLING CRITICISM

While it's fantastic to see your child being creative and expressive and bonding with people with similar interests, they need to be aware that not everyone will be supportive online. Comments can be negative or even cruel. Make sure your child knows how to comment respectfully and handle negative feedback. In the app's Privacy and Safety settings, your child can decide who can react to their videos, who can comment, and who can send them private chat messages. We suggest altering these settings so only their friends can interact with their posts.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you or your child sees something inappropriate on TikTok, you can flag up an account, video, comment or chat by simply tapping 'Report'. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there's also an 'Enhanced Restricted Mode', limiting appearance of videos which may be inappropriate.

USE A PRIVATE ACCOUNT

Setting up a private account means that only people who you and your child approve of can see their creations. To make an account private, tap the three dots at the top right of the screen to access settings. Click 'Privacy and Safety'. Scroll down until you find 'Private Account' and turn this setting on.

SIGNING UP WITH THE CORRECT AGE

When signing up, users are prompted to input a their date of birth. If the inputted date of birth means your child is under 13, the app will block them. However, this doesn't prevent your child from lying about their age. The app is intended for users aged 13+, so explain the rating is there for a reason: to keep them protected from online dangers. It is actually possible to watch TikTok videos without creating an account, so make sure your child, if under 13, hasn't downloaded it.

USE THE 'DIGITAL WELLBEING' SETTING

If you're concerned about how long your child is spending on TikTok, it has a setting called 'Digital Wellbeing' which allows you to manage the amount of screen time your child can have. We also advise that you turn off push notifications in the settings to prevent your child from receiving 'spam-like' notifications from TikTok that encourage users to go on the app.

DISCUSS IN-APP PURCHASES

To lower the risk of your child making accidental in-app purchases, teach them exactly what in-app purchases are and the risks of making them without permission. Tell them that they are not essential to enjoy the app and that if they want to make a purchase, they should always ask you beforehand. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there is the option to disable the function of purchasing coins and sending gifts.

Users can also follow the account @tiktoktips. Tik Tok's official account fronted by established TikTok users which offers useful online safety tips for promoting safety on its platform, rather than hiding information in FAQs.

SOURCES:

support.musical.ly/knowledge-base/community-guidelines, edition.cnn.com/2019/02/28/tech/tiktok-ftc-fine-children, techcrunch.com/2019/02/27/tiktok-is-launching-a-series-of-online-safety-videos-in-its-app, theguardian.com/technology/2019/feb/28/tiktok-video-sharing-app-fined-for-collection-of-childrens-data, TikTok app - Apple App Store, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TikTok, mediapost.com/publications/article/319720/social-media-stars-influence-kids-but-parents-still.html, metro.co.uk/2017/03/17/musical-ly-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-app-your-children-are-obsessed-with-6516068/, youtube.com/watch?v=aN06s4FCdUs, youtube.com/watch?v=YVG21ZQ4jM, static.muscdn.com/website/pdf/creatorPlaybook.pdf, youtube.com/watch?v=8TatQCCNtAM

Christmas lunch - Friday 13th December

If your child would like a school lunch on 13th December you must return a slip to us, (with the money if your meals are not free) by **Friday 6th December**. If you do not return a slip, you must send your child in with a packed lunch from home as there will not be any spare meals available on the day.



Applying for a school place for September 2020

If you have a child born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 you need to apply for a school place in a Reception class to start in September 2020. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2020. The easiest way is to apply online at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions. For more information call the Admissions team on 0300 1234 101 or visit the website.

Guitar & keyboard lessons

Guitar and keyboards finish next week. Invoices for the Spring term will come home before Christmas.



Clubs

Netball club next Thursday 28th November is **CANCELLED** as Mrs Dennison will be away.

ALL CLUBS finish next Friday 29th November with the exception of:

Y1-4 Gymnastics Monday 2nd December

KS2 Dodgeball Tuesday 3rd December

A new clubs list for the Spring term will come home in January.

Sleep workshop for parents

If you are interested in a sleep workshop to help develop good bedtime routines and sleep patterns for your child, please let the office know. If there is enough interest, we may be able to run one.

Kitchen assistant vacancy

Chartwells have a vacancy for a Kitchen Assistant, 10 hours per week, term times only in the Alverton School kitchen. For more information please contact Sally Bastian, Caterlink Area Manager on 07884 738519.

FOAS Christmas Fair - Friday 6th December

Christmas raffle

The Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 6th December and FOAS would like to start collecting items as prizes for the raffle. If you would like to donate any suitable items such as vouchers, wine, chocolates and quality foods, etc please drop them into the office. FOAS will then transform them into lovely hampers. Thank you very much.

Raffle tickets to sell have now come home. Please sell them if you can and hand the money and stubs into the office. If you'd like more to sell, please let us know.

Jam jars wanted!

Please start saving a jam jar so that you can decorate it and fill it with small sweets, toys, hairbands, etc for our jam jar stall. It is one of the most popular stalls and we never have enough jars. Thank you very much for your support.



PE kit reminder

Every child from Year 1 to 6 should have their full PE kit in school ALL WEEK and only take it home to be washed on a Friday. A number of children do not have any PE kit in school when they need it. PE is an important part of the curriculum and we need you to help your child ensure that they take part every week.

KS2 camps in 2020

All our camps are now booked for next year. You can pay any amount online using the schoolmoney website at any time up to the last day before full payment is due.

Year 3 Eden (£76 total)

Deadline for full payment: 1st February 2020

Year 4 Bude (£95 total)

Deadline for full payment: 1st February 2020

Year 5 Porthpean (£155 total)

Deadline for full payment: 15th May 2020

Year 6 London (£310 total)

Deadline for full payment: 14th April 2020

Absence from school

If your child is unwell or will not be attending school it is your responsibility to contact the school on the first day of absence no later than 9.30am (there is an answering machine if you wish to leave a message before 8am). If we have not heard from you by this time we will need to telephone home to ascertain the nature of their absence. This is in line with the Government's policy on attendance. Please note that any child who is ill with sickness or an upset stomach should remain away from school for 48 hours after the last episode of illness.

Woodlands pre-school closure

Due to the pre-school room being used for polling in the General Election, Woodlands pre-school will be closed on **Thursday 12th December**.

Change of dates - KS1 and Reception Christmas performances

Please note new dates:

Tuesday 10th December

KS1 Performances at 2pm & 6pm

Wednesday 11th December

Reception Performance at 4pm

Thursday 12th December

Reception Performance at 2pm

Jack and the Beanstalk

We are delighted to be welcoming M&M Theatre Company back to perform Jack and the Beanstalk on 25th November. All children from Reception upwards will be seeing the performance on that day. Please help us by paying £3.75 per child online as soon as possible if you haven't done so already.



STARS OF THE WEEK

Choughs & Robins	Amy	for being a thoroughly delightful member of the class
	Quinty	for settling in so well & being such a polite member of Chobins
Puffins	Sonny	for being a superstar at all times
Owls	Brodie	for determination and perseverance in English this week
Kingfishers	Amelia-Mae	for her fantastic gymnastics
Trencrom	Freddie	for fantastic Ancient Egyptian homework which we all enjoyed sharing
Lanyon	Mark	for making huge progress with his swimming. Well done!
Kerris	Alba	for her excellent DT skills making a working model of a shaduf
Bodriftly	Issy	for working so hard in everything & making progress in Maths
Bosigran	Meri	for fantastic writing in our story writing unit
Kenidjack	Phoebe	for fantastic work and progress in all areas
Dinnertime	Jowan	for being a thoroughly lovely young man
Breakfast Club	Tyler H	for always having great manners in Breakfast Club



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!




Twitter

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



CLASS ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Choughs		99.0%	1
Robins		96.0%	5
Puffins		91.7%	11
Owls		96.7%	4
Kingfishers		98.7%	2
Trencrom		93.1%	10
Lanyon		97.7%	3
Kerris		95.7%	6
Bodriftly		95.2%	8
Bosigran		95.0%	9
Kenidjack		95.4%	7
Overall school attendance		95.7%	

Our collective target is 96.5%

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER

- 25th M & M Theatre Production of Jack & the Beanstalk – please pay online
- 27th Last swimming for Kerris, Lanyon and Trencrom
- 29th Sharing assembly – Kenidjack at 2.45pm – **please note new date**
- 29th Non uniform day in aid of the FOAS Christmas Fair – details to follow
- 29th ALL CLUBS FINISH TODAY

DECEMBER

- 2nd Advent Service at 9.30am – followed by mince pies and coffee for parents
- 6th FOAS Christmas Fair – details to follow
- 10th KS1 Christmas performance at 2.00pm & 6.00pm – **please note new date**
- 11th EYFS concert at 4.00pm
- 12th EYFS concert at 2.00pm – **please note new date**
- 12th Woodlands pre-school room **closed** for polling
- 13th Pupils Christmas lunch



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APPLICATIONS CLOSE SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY 2020

