

Co-Principals:

Mr G.C. McCluskey
B.Ed (Hons), M.Ed, PQH (NI)
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OAKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
& NURSERY UNIT

www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com

Tuesday 9 May 2023



School photographer

We are pleased to announce that Mark Barnes, photographer and parent, will join us on **Wednesday 24 May 2023** to take individual pupil photographs within our Primary School and Nursery Unit. Mark has also kindly agreed to taking family groups from within our whole school, if requested. Please let your child's class teacher know by **Friday 19 May 2023** if you wish your child's photograph to be taken, either individually or as a family group. All pupils should therefore wear full school uniform on **Wednesday 24 May 2022**.

School closures list

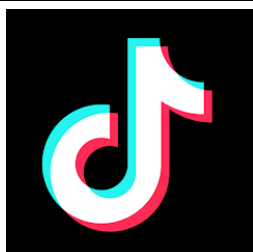
Thursday 18 May 2023 - Local elections (polling station)
Monday 29 May 2023 - Whitsun Holiday
Thursday 1 - Friday 2 June 2023 - Staff training

School
Holiday



Royal Coronation Celebration

Our Oakfield special celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III on **Friday 5 May 2023** was a wonderful fun day for everyone. There was music, games, yummy treats and special activities as together we celebrated our new King.



Safer Schools NI App

As part of our Safer Schools NI initiative, for the next two weeks we are focusing on **TikTok**. At the end of this newsletter, please find attached a 'TikTok Safety Card'. You can find more information about TikTok and TikTok Buzzwords by accessing the Safer Schools NI App.

- Login to the App
- Select 'Online Safety Guidance'
- Select 'Social Media'
- Select 'TikTok' or 'TikTok Buzzwords'

Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG)

Primary 6 parents have already been informed of the new Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG) tests which have replaced the former AQE assessments for transfer to Grammar schools. Applications have already opened on Wednesday 3 May 2023 and will close on Friday 22 September 2023. The application process may be completed online at <http://seagni.co.uk> Please do not hesitate in contacting us directly, if additional assistance is required.



Mathematical Problem Solving Day

On Wednesday 3 May 2023, pupils from P1-P7 put all their mathematical skills into action as they solved a wide range of numerical problems in a fun and practical way. Lots of photographs have been added to our website and Facebook page showcasing Problem Solving Day 2023.





Miss L Gilmour
Designated
Teacher



Mrs J Barrow
Deputy
Designated
Teacher (Primary)



Mrs K Wylie
Deputy
Designated
Teacher (Nursery)



Mr G McCluskey
Co-Principal



Mrs Y Moore
Co-Principal



Mr P Jones
Board of
Governors
Chairperson



Mrs L Soeters
Designated
Governor

TikTok



TikTok is a free social media platform used to create and share short videos. TikTok rules require the user to be 13 or older to use it and with parental consent if you're under 18. Users are able to create videos of themselves lip-syncing that can last up to 60 seconds. You are able to watch other user's streams & videos, you may be exposed to inappropriate content.

Stay safe on TikTok using the instructions on their **Digital Wellbeing** section, **Blocking** & **Reporting** below.



Digital Wellbeing

Set up Restricted Mode, Screen Time Management on your TikTok app:

- Tap on in the bottom right corner of the app.
- Tap on in the bottom right corner of the app.
- Scroll down and tap on **Digital Wellbeing**.

Block

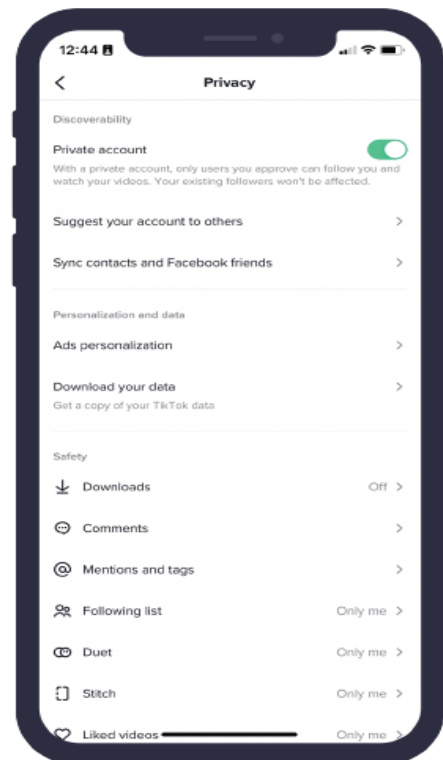
Block a user using these simple instructions:

- Go to the profile of the user you wish to block.
- Tap on
- Tap on **Block** and then confirm.

Report

Report a user using these simple instructions:

- Go to the profile of the user you wish to report.
- Tap on and then select **Report**.
- Select **Report Account** or **Report Content**.
- Select the reason you are reporting and hit **Submit**.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app, it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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