



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter Volume 16 - Friday 17th January 2025

Busy, Busy, Busy!

It has been another jam-packed week across school with the children trying their best and working hard in lessons. I have enjoyed talking to the children about their learning when I have popped in classrooms or been chatting to them at break or lunch. It has also been nice to get outside all week after last week's icy conditions. I really hope the dry weather continues!

Careers Learning at Springmoor Grange

This week, Reception and Year 1/2 had a fantastic time during their Career Days, thanks to the support of Esh Construction. We were thrilled to have an Esh construction kit in school, packed with exciting resources like hard hats, foam bricks, high-vis jackets, spirit levels, and more. The kit spent a week with each year group, offering the children hands-on experience with construction tools and materials. Rachael from Esh came in to deliver an engaging session all about careers in construction, linking various roles to the people working on our incredible new school. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different careers involved in building, and we can't wait to welcome Rachael and Esh back into school soon. These sessions are vital in helping children understand the wide range of careers available to them, both locally and nationally. By introducing children to different career paths from a young age, we hope to raise their aspirations and inspire them to dream big about their future possibilities.



Traffic and Parking

Recently, we have had an increase in incidents and complaints about inconsiderate parking. Please can you ensure that you park considerately when dropping off and collecting children and do not block drives of local residents. Also, remember not to park on the zig zag lines – this is an enforceable offence with fines and penalty points.

Car Park

A polite notice to remind parents and carers that the car park is not to be used as a drop off zone on a morning. Access is only available to Blue Badge holders. Thank you for your support with this in order to ensure that children are safe.

Naming Uniform

Please could we ask that you put your child's name on the label inside their uniform, particularly inside jumpers, cardigans and coats. This helps us greatly if children have ever lost items of their uniform. Thank you.

Lost Property

All lost property is now stored at the Main Office. Please feel free to call in and have a look if your child is missing items.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Thomas B	Year 4	Lois A
Year 1	Kieron F	Year 5	Hannah H
Year 2	Max H	Year 6	Caleb W
Year 3	Halle M		

Attendance and Punctuality

Overall attendance for the week is 94.8% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 4 with 97.6%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 94.9% for the whole school and 95.5% for children in Reception to Year 6.

The Primary starts at 8:30am, with the gates opening from 8:20am. Please ensure that your child is at school on time so that they do not miss out on any learning. This week, we have had 333 late minutes.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 22 nd , Thursday 23 rd and Friday 24 th January	Y3/4 Career Events with Northern Gas Networks
Tuesday 28 th January	5pm – Y4 Multiplication Check Parent/Carer Information Evening
Monday 3 rd February	5pm – Y6 SATs Parent/Carer Information Evening
Wednesday 12 th , Thursday 13 th and Friday 14 th February	PM – Y3/4 visiting St Andrew's Church
Friday 21 st February	Y3/4 trip to Hancock Museum
Friday 21 st February	Close for Half Term
Monday 3 rd March	Open for the Spring Term 2
Monday 10 th , Tuesday 11 th , Wednesday 12 th and Thursday 13 th March	Parent/Carer Consultations
Thursday 20 th and Friday 21 st March	Y5 – Captain Chemistry Workshops
Friday 28 th March	Y6 – Captain Chemistry Workshops
Wednesday 2 nd April	Y4 – Whitworth Park Transition Event
Week commencing 7 th April	Easter Activity Week
Friday 11 th April	Close for Easter Break
Monday 28 th April	Open for the Summer Term

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users’ interests, based on what they’ve already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters “were most likely to encounter a potential harm”.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok’s Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user’s previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok’s guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone’s profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.



BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the ‘blackout’ trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.



MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.



IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok’s policy is that under-18s can’t make in-app purchases, but it’s possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.



ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that’s twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people’s sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children’s ability to maintain focus.



Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child’s, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can’t alter these settings without parental approval.



BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We’d recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.



DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you’re happy for them to do so, it’s good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don’t share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they’re worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it’s also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.



READ THE SIGNS

If you’re concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they’ve been emotionally affected by something they’ve seen, it’s important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it’s never too late to introduce limits.



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom’s Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>



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This week in Rose Class!



The week started with an icy outdoor area. We worked as a team to clear the space to make it safe for our friends to play out. Then we noticed Nursery's area was too icy for them to play in - so we cleared that for them too! Awesome teamwork!



We continued on our icy theme and began learning about Polar Regions and the animals living in those areas. Did you know that a polar bear's skin is black under their white fur? It's to absorb the sun's heat and keep them warm!



We have also been talking about the sky at night and in the morning. In a couple of weeks, we will be able to see seven planets in the sky at once! If you keep an eye out now though, you might be able to see Mars, Jupiter and the moon.

