



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter Volume 12 – Thursday 27th November 2025

Closed – PD Day – Friday 28th November

Just a reminder that we will be closed tomorrow. We will reopen on Monday 1st December.

Christmas at Springmoor

At the end of last week, we were busy setting out tables, the grotto and decorations ready for our first Christmas Fair. What we weren't expecting was the huge turnout and amazing Christmas spirit that came on Saturday morning. From the minute the stall holders arrived to set up, we knew it was going to be something special. As the first of the buyers came through the door, they were greeted by the wonderful voices of The Springmoor Songbirds which literally brought tears to some eyes! Next was the turn of the Spennymoor Town Band who played an ensemble of Christmas tunes to add to the atmosphere. It was superbly supported by our whole school community and we were pleasantly surprised to see so many members of the public come to visit us. A huge thank you must go to Miss Simpson and the Friends of Springmoor Grange who organised for Father Christmas to come to see the boys and girls for a few hours. I'm glad to announce that all the children he saw were on the Good List! Thank you to everyone who supported the event and making it so much of a success that it is being planned in next year's diary already!



Careers Event – North East Doors

This week, we were delighted to welcome Andrew, Peter, and Stuart from North East Doors, who delivered excellent careers-focused sessions for our KS2 children. The workshops were highly informative, giving pupils a clear insight into the team's career pathways and what their jobs involve. The children particularly enjoyed the practical activities, which included building different electrical circuits and cracking a maths code to open an automatic door. We would also like to say a HUGE thank you to the team for generously donating microphones to the school—these will greatly enhance our future performances.



Christmas Post Box

Children can post their Christmas cards from Monday 1st December. Each class will have their own post box in their classroom. Please make sure that all cards have name and class on.

Christmas Performances

We are looking forward to all of our performances. Rehearsals are in full swing – you are all in for a festive time. Please note that tickets are not required for the performance as we have split the performances into phases.

For each performance, doors will open 15 minutes prior to the start time so that parents/carers can take their seats. **Just a reminder that we politely ask that you only take photographs of your child and do not share these on**

social media. We have some children in school who are unable to have photos taken and we must ensure that we are all keeping them safe. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

They have been in the diary section for a while now but here is a reminder of the dates and times:

Wednesday 10 th December	9:30am and 2pm – Reception Christmas Performance
Thursday 11 th December	9:30am and 2pm Year 3/4 Christmas Performance
Monday 15 th December	9:30am and 2pm Nursery Christmas Performance
Tuesday 16 th December	9:30am and 2pm Y1/2 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 17 th December	9:30am and 2pm Year 5/6 Christmas Performance

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Eden W	Year 4	Sophie S
Year 1	Kaiden S	Year 5	Paisley P
Year 2	Reign G	Year 6	Poppie P
Year 3	Reece M		

Dates for the Diary

Friday 28th November	PD Day – School Closed
Monday 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd December	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 visiting Santa at Spennymoor Town Hall
Wednesday 3 rd December	1:45pm – Nursery Christmas Stay and Play and Crafts
Thursday 4 th December	1:45pm – Reception Christmas Crafts
Friday 5 th December	10:20am and 1:45pm – Buttercups Christmas Stay and Play
Wednesday 10 th December	9:30am and 2pm – Reception Christmas Performance
Thursday 11 th December	9:30am and 2pm Year 3/4 Christmas Performance
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day <i>Suggested Donation – £1</i>
Monday 15 th December	9:30am and 2pm Nursery Christmas Performance
Tuesday 16 th December	9:30am and 2pm Y1/2 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 17 th December	9:30am and 2pm Year 5/6 Christmas Performance
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Party Day
Friday 19th December	Close for Christmas Break
Monday 5th January 2026	Open for the Spring 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

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

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

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's following feed shows videos from known creators, while the default 'For You' feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the 'blackout' trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £5.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.8 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a false date of birth) are set to public view 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 allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 13-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage 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 cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

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 they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, 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 important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

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See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](https://twitter.com/wake_up_weds)

www.thenationalcollege.com

[@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday)

[@wake.up.weds](https://www.tiktok.com/@wake.up.weds)

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This week in Raven ...



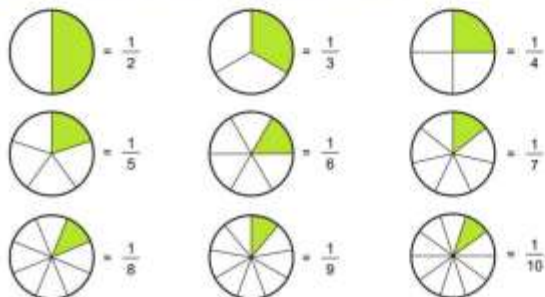
This week, we were language detectives. We listened to words spoken in different languages and had to guess the language and meaning of the word.

Did you know ...?

The German word 'kuddelmuddel' translates to 'big mess'.

We also had a visit from North East Door Systems. We spoke to our visitors about their career and got to ask lots of questions about automatic doors. We then completed a 'code breaker' maths challenge.

We enjoyed learning about the different skills needed for this engineering career, and comparing the skills with the careers we have learned this year.



Finally, in Maths this week we have been learning how to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers. Our times tables knowledge has been very useful!