School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 20th January	• KS2 Qualitas after school – Badminton – Book and Pay on ParentPay
Tuesday 21st January	• KS1 Qualitas after school – Dance – Book and pay on ParentPay
Wednesday 22nd January	• Qualitas KS2 after school - Benchball - Book and pay on ParentPay • **Junior Cross Country event at Whitworth Park. Please provide your consent on ParentPay if your child has been invited to participate**
Thursday 23rd January	• Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am -10.30am • SWIMMING FOR CLASS 2
Friday 24th January	•
Monday 27th January	• KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Badminton - Book and pay on ParentPay • **Class 4 to Young Voices at Sheffield Arena. Please ensure you have given consent on Parent Pay.** Depart school at 12.00 midday. Children will need two packed lunches plus a snack and drinks. Please do not send any sweets or fizzy drinks. Official Young Voices torches have been ordered for all children. **All children need to wear a plain white t-shirt.** Depart Sheffield at around 9.30pm Arrive back at school at approximately 10.30pm/10.45pm
Tuesday 28th January	• Class 2 Sports Festival The Arc – PM. Please give consent via ParentPay • KS1 Qualtias After School Club – Dance – Book and pay on ParentPay
Wednesday 29th January	• **Class 2 Space Centre Trip – Please give consent and pay using ParentPay** • KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Benchball – Book and pay on ParentPay
Thursday 30th January	• Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am • SWIMMING FOR CLASS 2
Friday 31st January	• **Class 3 Steel Pan Concert 10am – Parents and/or Grandparents are welcome to attend.**

OTHER NEWS

- **ParentPay – Please ensure you check your Parent Pay account on a regular basis. Accounts should be kept up to date to prevent balances increasing. There are still outstanding fees from last term, these should be settled as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support with this.**

- **Walesby Forest Residential** – The next payment for the Year 5 and 6 residential is due on 31st January. Thank you if you have already paid. Please contact the school office if you have any questions at all.
- **Class 4 – Young Voices – Monday 27th January**. Please ensure you have given consent on ParentPay for this. Payment can be made up to the end of January.

- **Class 2 – Space Centre – Wednesday 29th January.** Please ensure you have given consent on ParentPay for this. Payment can be made up to the end of January.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 56813 or by email with any questions or queries.

Friday updates can be found in the Newsletters section of our school website.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 3rd February	Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Badminton
Tuesday 4th February	Qualitas After School Club – KS1 Dance
Wednesday 5th February	Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Benchball
Thursday 6th February	Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00 – 10.30 SWIMMING FOR CLASS 2
Monday 10th February	Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Badminton **Parents Evening this week – further details to follow**
Tuesday 11th February	Qualitas After School Club – KS1 Dance
Wednesday 12th February	Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Benchball
Thursday 13th February	**Last swimming lesson for Class 2** **Class 3 will start swimming after half term**
Friday 14th February	**Break up for half term**
Monday 24th February	**INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
Tuesday 25th February	**Back to school**
Wednesday 26th February	MAD Infant Sports Event – Fun Run at All Saints Juniors – rearranged from 16th October
Thursday 27th February	**First Swimming lesson for Class 3**
Thursday 6th March	WORLD BOOK DAY
Friday 4th April	**Break up for Easter**
Monday 21st April	**Easter Monday**
Tuesday 22nd April	**Back to school – Start of the Summer Term**
Wednesday 30th April	Class 2 Multi Skills Festival at All Saints Juniors This Girl Can – Whitworth Park 930 – 11.30
Monday 5th May	**MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY**

Monday 12th May	KS2 SATS – English Grammar Punctuation and Spelling
Tuesday 13th May	KS2 SATS – English Reading Paper
Wednesday 14th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Papers 1 and 2
Thursday 15th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Paper 3
Friday 16th May	Year 6 Celebration at Whitworth Park
Friday 23rd May	Break up for half term
Monday 2nd June	**INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
Tuesday 3rd June	**Back to school**
Wednesday 18th June	Class 2 Dance and Gymnastics Festival at All Saints Juniors
Thursday 26th June	Year 6 Primary Athletics at Moorways, Derby
Tuesday 1st July	Highfields Transition Day for Y6 pupils
Wednesday 2nd July	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4
Thursday 3rd July	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4 FINAL SWIMMING LESSON FOR CLASS 3
Friday 4th July	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4
Wednesday 9th July	Class 2 Sports Day at All Saints Juniors
Thursday 10th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Thursday 17th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Thursday 24th July	**Last day of the school year** **NO AFTER SCHOOLCLUB**
Friday 25th July	First Day of the summer holidays

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?

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.

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.

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.

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-18s (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.

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.

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

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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