

Beechwood Primary Academy

Weekly Newsletter

"Living, learning and thriving"



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Please follow us on the Discovery Multi Academy Trust Facebook page

24th January 2020

STEM VISIT - YEAR SIX

Year 6 were fortunate enough to visit Plymouth University this week for the Science and Technology showcase. We were able to look at the exhibits and talk to experts in all areas of science and technology. We learnt a lot, used amazing equipment (including robots and computer programs) and asked fantastic questions!



UKULELE CLUB

All the children are working very hard to master the skills required for playing the Ukulele. This term they are learning how to play two different melody's and a 3-chord change, towards their White Belt award.



STAFF UPDATE

Jackie Daw, SENco at Beechwood has made the decision to retire at Easter this year. Jackie will be working with parents between now and then to ensure that there is a smooth transition into the Summer term. A new Inclusion Coordinator will be employed and parents will be updated as soon as we have more information.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Jessica, Logan and Jack from Year 6 joined six other children from Oakwood and Weston Mill schools to visit the Guild Hall for Holocaust Memorial Day. They listened to a talk about the life of Solly Irving who had survived the Holocaust. Each school took a flame that represented a memorial to the Holocaust. The Mayor and Mayoress spoke to the children about their flame.



The children represented Beechwood well with great manners and excellent behaviour.

Well done!



DIARY DATES

(These dates may be subject to change)



2019/2020

Wed 29th Jan	Museum Trip - Year 5
Fri 31st Jan	Boole (Yr 4) Class Assembly
Fri 7th Feb	Johnson (Yr 3) Class Assembly
Thurs 13th Feb	London Trip - Yr 6
Fri 14th Feb	Mufti - Buddies
Mon 17th Feb to	Fri 21st Feb - HALF TERM
Fri 6th Mar	Archimedes (Yr 1) Class Assembly
Fri 13th Mar	EYFS Stage Assembly
Fri 27th Mar	Mufti - Buddies
Fri 27th Mar	Easter Assembly - 9.15am
Mon 30th Mar to	Mon 13th April - EASTER BREAK
Wed 15th Apr	Class Photographs
Fri 24th April	Yr 1 Joint Class Assembly
Fri 1st May	Yr 5 Joint Class Assembly
Mon 4th May	Non Pupil Day
Fri 8th May	VE Day Bank Holiday
Sun 17th May	Plymouth Half Marathon Challenge
Mon 25th May to	Fri 29th May - HALF TERM
Thurs 23rd July	Summer Holidays Begin

2020/2021

Thurs 3rd Sept	Non Pupil Day
Fri 4th Sept	Non Pupil Day
Mon 7th Sept	Return to School
Mon 26th Oct to	Fri 30th Oct - HALF TERM
Fri 27th Nov	Non Pupil Day
Fri 18th Dec	Last Day of Term

BEECHWOOD BUDDIES

DISCO
Wednesday 12th February
4.15pm to 5.30pm

DISCO
Thurs 16th April
4.15pm to 5.30pm



ABSENCE NOTIFICATION

Can we please remind you that if your child is unwell, it is your responsibility to phone the school and let us know the reason. If we are unable to contact you it may result in your child receiving an unauthorised mark.

Also if your child is absent due to an appointment, please either pass a copy of the appointment letter to the office or complete an absence request form prior to the appointment. If your appointment is due to a cancellation or short notice, then proof of the appointment will need to be brought in the following day.

Thank you for your support.



ATTENDANCE

The expected average percentage attendance for a child is 96%. Please see below the attendance for week beginning **13th January 2020**.

Archimedes	99.3%
Plato	95.0%
Nash	89.7%
Pascal	98.6%
Aristotle	98.0%
Lovelace	97.8%
Johnson	99.2%
Carroll	95.4%
Boole	92.1%
Pythagoras	97.1%
Venn	93.6%
Kelvin	94.8%
Turing	95.2%
Tao	90.0%

WINNERS

Well done!

**The winners
will receive
the
Attendance
Cup**



CHANGE TO MENU

CHINESE NEW YEAR Monday 27th January 2020

Chicken Chow Mein
Spring Rolls
Egg Fried Rice

Sweet and Sour Vegetable
Spring Rolls
Egg Fried Rice

Thumb Print Cookies



BOOLE (YEAR 4) CLASS ASSEMBLY

Parents of children in Boole Class are invited to their assembly on **Friday 31st January at 9.00am**.

We look forward to seeing you there. Please use the black gate entrance by the main entrance.

Thank you.



PAYMENTS REMINDER

All lunches and breakfast club need to be paid for in advance. Please keep your child's Parent Pay account topped up. Please let the office know if you require a bar code letter to enable Paypoint payment. Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY

We have quite a lot of lost property building up, especially school jumpers, cardigans and coats. If your child has lost any of these items, also p.e. kits, glasses and even house keys, please come into reception and have a look.

Thank you.



For upcoming events for the Plymouth Schools Sports Partnership or to read some of our blogs, please visit www.yourschoolgames.com and search for our school.
<https://www.yourschoolgames.com/> <http://www.plymouthssp.co.uk/>



We did not have any suggestions in the ideas and suggestions box this week.



Have a great Weekend
Mrs Evans - Head of School



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as TikTok famous. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



SOURCES:

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