

Walpole Cross Keys Primary School

Weekly Newsletter – 17th January 2025



Hello everyone,

We are currently seeking members for our PTA. If you are interested, please speak to Mr Overton as soon as possible.

On Monday 10th February we will be holding a Skip-a-thon/jump-a-thon to raise funds for the school to help towards the costs of transport for trips and visits. A sponsor form has been sent home today. Your support is very much appreciated.

Could you please ensure your child comes to school suitably dressed for the elements.

PARKING OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL – Could you please ensure that you are respectful of the residents and do not park across any driveways as access is required. Please park sensibly.

As always, we would like to ensure that your **experience** at Walpole Cross Keys Primary is a **positive** one. If you have any concerns, in the first instance please telephone, email the school office or speak with the class teacher.

Best Wishes
Ms J. Borley (Executive Head Teacher)

Join the PTA!



*Please also check page 2 for future diary dates.

Attendance

Class 1: 95%

Class 2: 96%

Class 3: 94%

Congratulations to Class 2!

Whole school: 95.2%



Weekending—17.01.2025

Stars:

Isaac (Class 1), Isaac (Class 2) & Clay (Class 3)

Kindness:

Ronnie (Class 1), Jacob (Class 2), & Evan (Class 3)

Handwriting:

Bella (Class 1), Matthew (Class 2) & Florence E (Class 3)

THANK YOU card winners:

Toby (Class 1), Isaac (Class 2) & Florence E (Class 3)

Golden Broom: Class 2



www.walpolecrosskeysprimary.co.uk
Tel: 01553 828680 Email: office@walpolecrosskeysprimary.co.uk
Governors: r.wenn@westnorfolkacademiustrust.co.uk
SENCO: primarysend@wnat.co.uk



Diary Dates

Please be aware that dates are for guidance only and are subject to change

Diary dates are also located on the school website. Please note that the West Norfolk Academies Trust school calendar for 2024/25 2025/26 can be located from the school's website. School holiday dates are slightly different to NCC.

Friday 24th January 2025	Whole School—Gymnastics Held @ Lynnsport
Monday 27th January 2025	Year 1 & Year 2—Active Kids Festival More info to follow.
Tuesday 28th January 2025	Year 5 only—Joseph Performance at Springwood High School
Friday 31st January 2025	Whole School—Gymnastics Held @ Lynnsport
Friday 7th February 2025	Whole School—Gymnastics Held @ Lynnsport (except Yr4) Year 4 Trip to Norwich Castle—Roman Day-Payment & consent via your MCAS account.
Monday 10th February 2025	Skip-a-thon/Star jump-a-thon—Whole school.
Wednesday 12th February 2025	Young Voices Trip—Choir
Friday 14th February 2025	Whole School—Gymnastics Held @ Lynnsport Break up at usual time for half term.
Monday 24th February 2025	School opens—Prompt registration at 8.45am.
Friday 4th April 2025	School breaks up at usual time for Easter break.
Wednesday 23rd April 2025	School opens—Prompt registration at 8.45am



Jack and the Beanstalk

Written by Kei Bailey

20th & 21st February 2025 - 7:30pm

22nd February 2025 - 2:30pm & 7:30pm

Westmere Primary School, Sutton Bridge, PE12 9TB

£7.50 per person, children aged 11 and under go free
Children must be accompanied by an adult over 18

Get in touch with our Box Office to book your tickets:

Email: info@suttonbridgeplayers.co.uk

Text: 07907827108



www.SuttonBridgePlayers.co.uk



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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.

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 with 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.

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.

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.

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.

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>

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play. At our school we have a designated safeguarding team who are trained professionals in safeguarding, however all our staff are trained in safeguarding if you want to discuss any concerns with them.

The Safeguarding team.

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the schools safeguarding team.



Mrs Maddison



Mr Overton



Miss Calaby



Mrs Jones



Mrs Preston