

The Coppice Newsletter – 02.10.2020



HAPPY, CONFIDENT AND SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS; WELL PREPARED FOR LIFE.

UNIFORM - PLEASE SUPPORT

We have made an adjustment to our uniform policy, to allow children an extra layer whilst we are trying to accommodate extra classroom ventilation in the light of Covid-19 (as recommended). Rest-assured, classrooms will not be cold, but may have some temperature fluctuation.

As parents will know from last week's newsletter, we are recommending either an extra 'undergarment' (e.g. vest/tee shirt) or hoodie/sweatshirt. Any hoodie/sweatshirt must be either black or navy blue. These can be bought cheaply. However, where there are proven hardship issues, the school will support with purchase.

Given the relatively short notice we are allowing some flexibility around this, permitting hoodies and a sweatshirt, in the right colour, which have a small, unobtrusive badge or logo (see accompanying photos, as examples); though, ideally, we would want no logo or badge.

It is really good to see the children looking smart in their full uniform at this time of year, setting the scene for the year ahead. As I have mentioned before, we hold great store by uniform, we know it makes a real difference to children's readiness to work. We thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

For details of our uniform expectations in general please see page 5 of this newsletter. Thank you.



SAFETY ON SITE

We appreciate that things have got a bit more congested on site with pedestrians, due to our Covid-19 restrictions around pick-up and drop-off, meaning people no longer 'drop and go' but are often having to wait to hand over. Accordingly, this has increased risk around drivers through the car parks that we share with Woodrush and The Hub. (Coppice does not have sole ownership of the car park, instead we co-own with Woodrush and Woodrush own the barrier). I believe we have had one or two 'near misses'. Firstly, can all parents please take charge of their children at this time? This would cut down on the risk. We are aware that most parents do this (thank you). Secondly, if you witness any vehicles being driven recklessly, then please do take the car registration (by smartphone camera, perhaps?) and email it to the school. We will then follow this up, robustly. It may be, because of restrictions around parent motorists on site, that any culprits are members of staff of either school or The Hub. In which case we will take the matter up with them directly.

Thank you in anticipation of your consideration around this.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

This week	2
Star of the Week.....	2
Meet The Teacher.....	2
Nursery & Reception message..	2
St Mary's Church invite.....	2
Maths Challenge	2
Tiktok warning.....	3
Foodbank.....	4
Contact Us.....	4
Uniform expectations.....	5

NURSERY AND RECEPTION

During the week beginning the 12th October, EYFS will be having a joint Special Harvest week. For this project (Nursery and Reception), we are asking parents to either donate a bedding plant or send in £1 on **Friday 9th October**. In return, the children will be invited to wear their own clothes for the day. We will also be asking parents to bring in old newspaper and then we will quarantine it over the week-end.

We are going to be learning all about Harvest and Autumn. The children will be doing some gardening and by the end of the week, we will be displaying handmade scarecrows around our Outside Classroom.

ST MARY'S INVITE YOU TO THEIR ONLINE HARVEST SERVICE

This Sunday, 4th October, we are celebrating Harvest! Our Harvest Service will be online, on our YouTube channel St Mary's Wythall Tech https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-6Mn2tG_8WJ84kklv_eayA This year we will be looking at how we care for God's world, and our guest speaker will be Rev Michelle Parton who some of you will remember from her time as Curate here. We will also hear from members of St Mary's about practical things they are doing to move towards being a more eco friendly household. There will be an activity sheet for 3-14 year olds on the same theme; this will be available on the front page of our web-site www.wythallchurch.net. Our service is available online from 9am onwards on Sunday; we invite you to watch at 10.30am, to give a sense of togetherness, or at any time to suit you!

MATHS CHALLENGE COMPETITION

On Friday 25th September, four Year 4 children took part in an online Zoom Maths Challenge.

In previous years we have travelled to King Edward's School to meet up with other talented mathematicians to compete against them in a series of complicated maths challenges.

This year they organised a Zoom version so that everyone could still take part.

The challenge consisted of two rounds. The first round was a 'cross number' round where the children had twenty minutes to answer as many questions as possible. They managed to get a brilliant 46 out of 51.

The second round was a relay race where the children had to work as pairs to answer two sets of questions. They could not move onto the next set of questions until both pairs had correctly answered their question so team work was critical. The children worked together brilliantly and scored a fantastic 27 out of 28!

This amazing score means that we won our heat and are through to the next round.

A brilliant well done to Ben (4AW), Noah W (4MW), Dylan B (4MW) and Zoe (4J).

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STAR OF THE WEEK

- 1D - Baxter
- 1T - Cole
- 1RB - Cassius
- 2A - Lucy
- 2CA - Maya & Toby
- 2J - Kane
- 3P - Ethan
- 3K - Rohan
- 3HK - Jamie
- 4W - William
- 4MW- Noah W
- 4J - Holly
- 5G - Esme
- 5MS - Chanpreet
- 5K - Tamzin
- 6C - None last week
- 6L - Annie
- 6G - Dolce

MEET THE TEACHER


Normally at this time of year we would be holding our Meet the Teacher evenings. As this is not currently possible we have set up a new section on our website so you can access all the information you need about your child's year ahead. The site goes live today and you can access it by following the link below.

<https://sites.google.com/coppice.worcs.sch.uk/meetyourteacher/home>


TikTok

There is a growing trend that younger children are using the TIKTOK App. There is an age restriction of 12 years old on this App due to the content—see below. No child at The Coppice should be using this App because of their age but also because it is creating friendship issues amongst some groups that are using it inappropriately.

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. Its 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 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



AGE RESTRICTION
12+
Under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.

What parents need to know about

TIKTOK

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE 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 to 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 light-hearted or designed to make people laugh. However there have been a number of videos reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and young teens engaging in sexually suggestive content. More recently, suicide-themed related videos have been widely circulated. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be common to come across explicit and age-inappropriate 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.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use TikTok, make sure you take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have an open dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding. 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 dash 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.

MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Even if it doesn't make you popular, keep a close eye on what your child is viewing and sharing on TikTok. Whilst the app has moderation tools, videos can still slip through the net so it's important to regularly check in on what they're watching. Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with it. You could then even watch some videos with your child, turning it into a bonding opportunity also.

LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT


With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a relatively safe space for your child to express themselves. However, 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.



FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.



SOURCES: www.tiktok.com

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09/09/2020

LOCAL FOODBANK

The Hollywood Christian Life Centre on Simms Lane have a food bank which runs each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1.30 to 2.30pm. They say;

We have seen a steady demand since Easter and anticipate that local need of a foodbank may increase as redundancies start now the furlough scheme is coming to an end, and with it being now relatively so close to Christmas.

We have had financial support from the Parish and District councils as well as from local people in addition to the investment we are making as a local church, so donations are not our current aim, but rather making sure that people know that if they are struggling, help is available.

food bank

CONTACT US

School office –01564 826 709

School email—office@coppice.worcs.sch.uk

OUR ONLINE LINKS

School website- <http://www.coppice.worcs.sch.uk/>

Newsletter- <http://www.coppice.worcs.sch.uk/>

PTA- <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/coppice>

Calendar- <http://www.coppice.worcs.sch.uk/about-us/calendar/>

Suggestions box- <http://www.coppice.worcs.sch.uk/about-us/suggestion-box/>

Official Facebook page- <https://www.facebook.com/coppiceps/>




PTA Facebook group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/320191721984039/>





SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please note that Summer Uniform can consist of a white polo shirt and no tie and grey or black school shorts or a blue gingham dress. When children return after the October half term standard uniform must be worn. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

KS1 uniform (Reception, Year1 and Year2)

Boys and girls standard uniform	Standard uniform can be worn all year round but is compulsory after October half term to beginning of Summer term.	Girls (alternative)
White polo shirt Navy blue "V" neck jumper with logo Black or grey school trousers Grey socks		Navy blue school cardigan with logo Grey skirt or pinafore dress Grey/black tights No leggings
Black school shoes, no trainers, no logos 		Black school shoes, no trainers, no logos 

KS2 uniform (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)

Boys and girls standard uniform	Standard uniform can be worn all year round but is compulsory after October half term to beginning of Summer term	Girls (alternative)
White school shirt School sweatshirt with logo Coppice school tie Black or grey school trousers Grey socks		School cardigan with logo Grey skirt or pinafore dress Grey/black tights
Black school shoes, no trainers, no logos 		Black school shoes, no boots or trainers, no logos 