

SCHOOL MATTERS

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL

Friday 5th November 2021

From the Headteacher

Welcome back to the last half term of another eventful year! We are all looking forward to the Christmas celebrations at the end of term. Details will be heading your way later in the term. If you are attending the village fireworks display, then please enjoy yourselves safely. May I draw your attention to the Flu Immunisation information. The closing date is next Wednesday!

Word Millionaire

Our first millionaire of the academic year is Jasparan in Year 4. Well done.

Flu Immunisation

The letter from the Immunisation Team is included on the next page of this newsletter. The closing date for completion of consent is this coming **Wednesday, 10th of November**. Please follow the link as outlined in the letter.

From the PTFA

FANTASTIC NEWS to kick off this half term! The PTFA have successfully applied for a Magic Little Grant of £500 to fund new splash suits for preschool! Whoop!

BONFIRE NIGHT is tonight!

Last chance to buy tickets for the village fireworks display in the playground today at pick up time! The PTFA are running the BBQ and tuckshop at the event, so don't forget to come and see us for a cheeky sausage!



www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

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✉ admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

For any Twilight after school club matters please phone the main school number.

Here is a copy of a letter from the Immunisation Team sent out earlier this week about flu vaccination:

Dear Parents/guardians,

Your child is in Year R to Year 6 from September 2021 and is therefore eligible for a Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination. The immunisation team will be visiting your child's school on 17th November 2021.

Flu vaccination is one of the most effective interventions we have to reduce pressure on the health and social care system, which is going to be more important than ever this year. For this reason, it is essential we deliver the vaccine to as many children as possible to protect them and prevent the spread of infection to those most at risk in society.

Considering the above, we are expecting demand to be high and therefore we urge you to follow the below link to consent to your child's vaccination asap. Even if you do not want your child to receive this vaccination, please complete the consent form stating "decline". On this link you will also find answers to your FAQ's and links to the current Public Health England and manufacturers leaflets. We recommend you discuss this vaccination with your child prior to the date of vaccination.

Prior to completion of the consent, we would like each individual child's unique NHS number – this can be found in their red book, or via this link:

Find your NHS number - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Please note, this field is not mandatory so if you are experiencing problems finding/ accessing your child's NHS number then you can leave this blank.

To complete the consent/decline please click on the link below:

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2021/devon>

We will be operating a strict policy of closing the consent links and your school's link will close at midnight on the **10th November 2021**. If you miss this deadline, your child/ children will not be vaccinated at school and you will be offered the opportunity to book them into a local community catch up clinic. This also applies if your child is absent or refuses the vaccination at school.

If you have any difficulties with completing the consent form, please contact the Immunisation Team on our Single Point of Access (SPA).

Tel: 0300 247 0082

Email: vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Virgin Care Immunisation Team

This week's National Online Safety guide to TikTok.
What parents and carers need to know about TikTok.

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.



HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.



TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become 'TikTok famous'. While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 16s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



SOURCES TikTok.com

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