

Beechwood Newsletter



Attendance

Every week, we reward the children in classes with the top attendance, and at the end of the term, we celebrate every single child whose attendance is above 95%. All the prizes for the end of the term have arrived, and children with attendance above 95% will be rewarded with an Easter egg at the end of the spring term, in addition to weekly & individual prizes, certificates, postcards, positive phone calls home, and many more.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all parents for ensuring their children come to school on time and communicate well with the school when children are absent due to illnesses or exceptional circumstances. It is parents' responsibility to communicate with the school when children are absent and to provide supporting evidence where possible. Thank you for your continued support.



Attendance figures

Last week, the top three classes attendance figures were:

Class 10 — 98.7%

Class 7 — 98.2%

Class 5 — 97.1%

Well done for your brilliant attendance!

At Beechwood Primary School, we are continuously seeking ways to improve school attendance, as we believe that good attendance supports children in feeling confident and happy about school and their learning. By ensuring that your child attends school every day and arrives on time, you can support them in enjoying school life to the fullest.

Trips, Visits and Experiences

Year 5 Bikeability

For the past couple of weeks, all Year 5 got to participate in Bikeability training. They learned all about riding their bikes safely, like how to signal and look out for cars. Most pupils even got to ride their

bikes on the road to practice what they learned in a real-life setting.

Year 4 Matthew Bellwood Workshop

Year 4 welcomed Matthew Bellwood to school who taught us about Ghanaian folklore. He retold the tale of Anansi the Spider and how he claimed his stories from the god Nyame. We then re-told parts of the tale by creating shadow puppets and performing in front of the class. We had a lot of fun and learnt new skills.



Year 3 Nell Bank Residential

Year 3 had a fantastic residential trip to Nell Bank. We enjoyed lots of different outdoor activities, especially the pond dipping and den building. We learnt lots of interesting facts about different animals and the habitats they live in. We were also very excited to spend the evening with our friends, playing games and sharing treats!



Class 13 Skelton Grange Trip

We went on a trip to Skelton Grange to develop our understanding of classification, evolution, and inheritance in science. We looked at different ways animals have adapted to their environments through various practical activities including pond dipping, fossil and skeleton exploring and modelling if we were

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a giraffe. The children really enjoyed themselves and the different activities.

Story Bus Visit

Nursery and reception children enjoyed visiting the Story Bus on Wednesday. They loved listening to a story being read to them, singing 'Wheels on the Bus' and having some time to choose their own books to read as well.



'Just Bee' Visit

Children in nursery and reception enjoyed a 'Just Bee' workshop that involved mindful yoga around the story of 'The Odd Egg'. The children loved dancing to the lively music and pretending to be dinosaurs and butterflies.



World Book Day

On Friday, the whole school celebrated World Book Day in school. The children came dressed as their favourite book character or clothes they were comfy in to enjoy reading a book. Different classes joined together to read books at our Book Picnic and lots of children entered our competition to design their own potato book character. The winners of the competition were:

- Colby R Class 13
- Toby F Class 11
- Mya F Class 10
- Reuben R Class 5
- Imogen B Class 3

All the winners will receive a £5 book voucher to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair arriving in school on 17th March.



Beavers Group

A new Beavers group for boys and girls aged 6-7 ½ years old has opened in Seacroft. If you have a child who wants to make friends, play games, have fun, learn new skills, help people and go on adventures, this is the place for them!

Book your child's place on our Beaver's Taster Sessions on Wednesday evenings from 5th March 6:15-7:30pm at St Richards Church, Seacroft, LS14 1BX.

The first five sessions are just £10 per child, then £12 per month. Book your child's place by visiting the link below, get in touch by [email](#) or call and message on 07523300811. For the website click [here](#).

Young Carers Action Day

Wednesday, 12th March, is Young Carers Action Day. #YoungCarersActionDay. This year, the theme is "Give Me A Break" because young carers deserve time to rest, recharge, and have a fair chance to succeed in school and work. Young carers have so much responsibility on their shoulders, and they need a break and time out from their caring responsibilities

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to rest. "Young carers are children under the age of 18 who care for a member of their family due to illness, disability, or addiction". We are proud to be a young carer-friendly school and believe every young carer should have the chance to fulfil their potential. For more information follow these links:

- [Young carers' action day](#)
- [Leeds Young Carers](#)

If you are worried about any safeguarding situation or about your child being harmed, then you should contact Miss Roberts (Designated safeguarding lead) or Mrs Giles (Deputy designated safeguarding lead) to share your concerns.

Key Dates

11th March 9am-9.30am	Year 1 Phonics Meeting – parents are invited
11th March	Year 5 Lotherton Hall Trip
13th March	Year 2 Ledston Woods Trip
13th March	Class 7 Veolia Recycling and energy recovery facility trip
17th March	Class 8 Veolia Recycling and energy recovery facility trip
17th–20th March	Scholastic Book Fair after school in the hall. Parents and children are welcome to browse and buy books.

School App

Please remember to download the school App so that you don't miss any communication.
<https://www.theschool.app/>



Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's online safety focus is again on the app TikTok which has an age rating of 13+ following on from the letter school sent to parents last week. The app provides a short stream of video clips tailored to users' interests. Around half of British children use TikTok. The guide has lots of advice and guidance for parents on how to keep children safe on the app. Please see below for information to help support you.

Safeguarding

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 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.

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.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>



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