

Beechwood Newsletter



Attendance

We are excited to share some good news regarding our end-of-year attendance rewards! Students with an attendance rate between 95% to 100% will have the chance to win a bike or a scooter.

Each week, we recognise classes with perfect attendance, and we are proud to highlight the top three classes that excelled in attendance last week. Additionally, we would like to congratulate our attendance ambassadors for successfully completing a project this year, where each class set attendance and punctuality targets and presented them in assembly. Their efforts serve as a role model for other students, as their last year's academic attendance rate was an impressive 100%. We encourage all students to continue demonstrating good attendance and punctuality.

For any questions regarding attendance, please visit our school website, where you can find relevant information on how to communicate with the school, report illnesses in line with government guidance, and learn more about our school attendance policy.



Trips, Visits and Experiences

Year 5 World War 2 Workshop

In history, we had a fantastic workshop with Matthew Bellwood. We looked at the Home Front during WW2 and answered some of the key questions we generated at the start of the topic. We found out what the Home Front was and how people who stayed at home did their bit to help the war effort. Matthew used a range of different primary and secondary sources to teach us about different aspects such as ARP wardens, the Fire Guard, the blackout, shelters, the role of women, Dig for Victory and evacuation. Each child took on

a role and participated in an air raid. It was a fantastic session where the children learned a lot about the Home Front. They have started to create an informative booklet to show their learning.



Years 5 and 6 Knife Crime Workshop

Years 5 and 6 took part in a workshop with our local PCSO, Louise. She spoke to us about the dangers of knives and the importance of reporting anything relating to knives. We finished by making a list of five trusted adults who we could talk to if we had anything to report.



Year 3 Local Area Walk

Year 3 enjoyed our local walk around Seacroft with Matthew Bellwood. We learnt lots of interesting

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facts and enjoyed listening to some stories from local residents.



Cross Country Competition

On Wednesday, Mrs Haylings took children from Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6 to represent Beechwood in a cross-country tournament at St Theresa's Primary. The children faced tough opponents from 15 other schools across the Leeds area in each race. Y3 had to cover a distance of 900m while Y5/6 had to run 1500m. Every child represented Beechwood brilliantly and we are so proud of them all. The results of the day are being verified, and we are waiting to see if Beechwood have reached the next stage of the competition.



Chinese New Year

This week children have been learning about Chinese New Year as the celebrations started on 29th January. The children have been learning about the traditions around the festival in assemblies and have been doing lots of fun activities in class. Your child will be bringing home some activities to complete at home. Please send in any photos of their home learning.



Aspirations Week support

This year, we will be holding an Aspirations week in school for children. We would be very grateful if any parents or carers with interesting jobs would be willing to come into school and speak to the children. Also, if anyone has any older children or siblings who attended Beechwood that are now working in a successful career or have attended university, we would be very excited to invite them into school to take part in the week. The office will be sending out a Googleform shortly to find out who would be interested. We will then contact anyone who is willing to arrange further dates. Many thanks in advance.

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS LEEDS

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Wednesday 12 February, 1 - 7pm
first direct arena Leeds

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's online safety focus is on the app TikTok which has an age rating of 13+. 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.

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Safeguarding

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

Friday 7 th February.	Y3 Nell bank residential balance is due
Thursday 6 th February 2.15pm-3pm	Class 2 Reception Stay and Play
Friday 7 th February	Civic Hall Trip
Thursday 13 th February	Class 14 Skelton Grange Trip*
Wednesday 26 th February	Class 13 Skelton Grange Trip*

* Note: Year 6, both classes going on different days

School App

Please remember to download the school App so that you don't miss any communication.

<https://www.theschool.app/>



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

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-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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

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