



# Newsletter – WC 13th January 2025

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

– Philippians 4:13



## A massive St John's well done to all our Silverdale Stars this week.

### **Curlews - Roman**

For a fantastic week in school – lots of role play, lots of work, lots of socialising!

### **Bitterns – Seb B**

For being so enthusiastic about school and being learning ready

### **Harriers – Lewis**

For always working hard in every maths lesson. He is focussed, works independently and is improving every day.

## Chinese Day

Mengke and Xinyi were wonderful today, as we celebrated 2025 the 'year of the snake'! We learnt some Chinese words and completed Chinese crafts. The children enjoyed wearing red and being immersed in the Chinese culture. Thanks again to the Confucius Institute

## Attendance

Some families received emails regarding attendance on Tuesday, for the period of 4th September 2024 to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024. We do this to highlight it to families, but also so we can support. Our attendance policy states that 'a pupil is on track to becoming a persistent absentee when their attendance falls to 90% or below at any point during the school year; whether the absences are authorised or unauthorised'.

For clarity with the new rules which the government is instilling with regards attendance. We will look at each individual case when it comes to attendance, especially taking into account current attendance and attitude towards fulfilling the legal responsibility for the child to attend school, and judge whether a penalty notice is the best available tool to improve attendance. As a school, we are asking parents to please be mindful about when you are booking holidays and please be aware of the impact term-time absence can have on your child's wellbeing and educational achievement in school.

## Village dinner dance!

We need a committee for this. It will be happening after February half term – hopefully in the Gaskell hall. It will be a community event, one which we hope will raise lots of money. Please see Carly and Chimene, if you would like to be involved. In the meantime, get practising those dance steps and get out your posh frocks!

## Mrs Taylor

Mrs Taylor will only be in the office on Monday next week.. Mrs Alderson will be in all day Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning and all day Friday. Please be patient in the afternoons whilst we answer the telephone and 'man' the office. Please direct any emails to Miss Sanderson on the days Mrs Alderson isn't in.

## Playground

We have priced up climbing, crawling and balancing equipment for the soft, raised areas in the playground. It is super expensive! Whilst the PTA will be able to raise money for some of it, we wondered if anyone knew of anyone wanted rid of any of the above, or know of anyone that makes them at a good price. The younger children still need areas to climb, balance, read, relax away from the playground ball games. We also need a wooden gazebo! Something that looks similar to this. We have been quoted over £10, 000 for this.



## Mid-Morning Snack

What do your children think of mid morning snack? We have changed to the school kitchen flapjack recently (Mrs Taylor and Miss Sanderson were baking all weekend!) We do mid morning snack to be inclusive (not all children have a snack), and also to try and limit the amount of single use plastic some children have. However, it doesn't seem as popular this term so far, and we have spotted unhealthy snacks creeping in! Please ask your children for their thoughts

The words of Jesus: Our Christian Value this week is FAITH

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## Reading Corner

For ages 4-5 and up



Will Faizah be bold enough to fence in front of others? A warm, beautifully illustrated book with an unusual message on bravery.

For ages 6-8 and up



A hard-hitting picture book which tells the true story of a Holocaust survivor.

This important book explores dark events in a sensitive but unflinching way.

## Outdoor Education

These trips will be taking place WC 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025. They are always such a good opportunity for children to develop their resilience in the outdoors, to work collaboratively and to have new and exciting experiences. We will be working with the team at High Borrans again this year. This outdoor centre comes with a very good reputation. They have climbing walls on site, rope courses and a small lake for canoeing and kayaking. Our first trip will be with Nursery and Reception on 25.03.25. Dan Willan coaches are taking us. Year 1 and 2 have theirs on 26.03.25. Miss Sanderson will be driving the minibus. Year 3/4 are having their overnight stay/trip on 27/28.03.25. We will hopefully be taking the minibus and cars for this one. We will also be taking the Year 5s sailing on 20<sup>th</sup> June (a bit later in the year this time, as it is warmer). There may just be a little extra treat for our Year 6s later in the year too!

**Payments for High Borrans trips are due by 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

## Lunches

Week 2 WC 20.01.25



## Friday Thought

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked. —Proverbs 10:11

## Class Blog

It is Bitterns' class blog this week. Please click [here](#) to have a look

## Next Week...

- 20.01.25 – Mrs Taylor out Tuesday to Friday
- 20.01.25 – John (volunteer) in Bitterns
- 21.01.25 – Learning support staff epilepsy training
- 21.01.25 – Quality of Education governors meeting
- 23.01.25 – National Handwriting day!
- 24.01.25 – Alderhey worship
- 24.01.24 – Miss Jackson on training morning

## Alder Hey Hospital

Vicky Cartledge will be coming to talk to us about Alder Hey hospital next Friday in worship. She will be telling us a bit about where your money will be going and how it helps others.

## Reindeer rush

Carmen Jackson will be coming to family worship on 31<sup>st</sup> January, so we can present her with a cheque. Well done to all of our children who took part in the Reindeer Rush and thank you to our parents who donated so generously to this great cause. The final total raised was £610

## Primary Nursery Admission

We have spaces available in Nursery. Please come and have a look around our wonderful provision or contact the office for a booking form. Tours are still available during the school day, please ring to book.

## Attendance

A huge 'well done' to Bitterns this week.

	98.1
Curlews	92.3
Bitterns	95.5
Harriers	95.5
Average school	

# 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-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>