



St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School



NEWSLETTER

"A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum through wisdom and love"
Jesus said, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 15 v 12

Telephone: 01798 872007

WB 13th January 2025

Another busy week with lots of learning opportunities. Please have a look at the newsletter to find out more! A big thank you to the parents for all your support over the last few weeks.

Church Links

Year of Faith service – if any children in Year 5 or 6 would like to join us on Wednesday 22nd January at 6.45pm for a service at Steyning Grammar School, Shooting Fields, please contact the office to let them know.

Reflection - This week's reflection, thank you so much to Mrs Smith for putting this together for our school community. [Humility 2025](#)

Learning

New Themes – We are already engaged in new learning! UK and Thailand are looking at Flight, Italy and India are thinking about The Great Fire of London, NZ, SL and USA are focussing on Temples, Tombs and Treasures. Mexico and China are focussing on Peasants, Pestilence and Princes and South Africa and Japan are looking at Explorers and Adventurers. The class newsletters will be up on our website by Friday this week with the class knowledge organiser and homework grid – it would be brilliant if the children could learn these facts for their themes!

History - Year 3 and 4 have been making Shaduf's- a mechanism used by the Ancient Egyptians to collect water from the Nile. Here are some pictures!



Explorer and Adventurer Day_ – Year 6 – This was a great super starter to raise the children’s awareness of different Adventurers and Explorers that are known and the role that they have played.



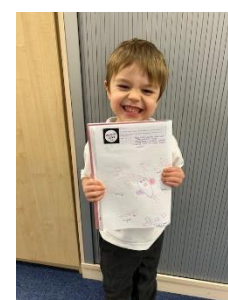
Forest Schools – India class have enjoyed their forest school session this week, especially looking at a branch that was found with lots of curly lines on that had been made by a beetle. They have also enjoyed time on the slack line and rope swing.



Anti-bullying competition – during Anti-bullying week, children were asked to design and make posters to display throughout school. We had many wonderful entries and the children should be very proud of their hard work. This week they were independently judged and the winning design was by Toby H (SA).



Sentence writing – some of the children in Reception have been working really hard on writing their first sentences this week. Will H (UK) was incredibly proud to share that he had written about Pip the bird!



News

The children have been thinking about their hopes for the beginning of the year and about green shoots that appear when we start to do something new.



Nativities – It was lovely to see St Mary's School in the County Times last week. You may wish to grab a copy for your child's memory box!



Things to know...

End of day – Just a reminder that there shouldn't be any bikes or scooters on the playground at the end of the day. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Chartwells' meal choices – Please could we ask that when ordering your child's meal choice, you sit down together and choose their preferred option. We have had a number of children refusing to eat what was ordered for them and, as a school, we only receive what you have ordered to reduce food waste.



February Cut off Dates

Thur 23/01 for w/c 03/02

Thur 30/01 for w/c 10/02

HALF TERM

Dates for your diary - SPRING TERM

Mon 20th Jan – Young Voices concert 02, London
Wed 22nd Jan – Service at Steyning Grammar school for Year of Faith
Mon 27th Jan – Little Lifesavers – First Aid Y5
Tues 28th Jan – Little Lifesavers – First Aid Y6
Tue 11th Feb – Egyptian Day NZ/SL/USA – Costumes if you wish
Fri 14th Feb – INSET DAY
Mon 17th to Fri 21st Feb – HALF TERM
Mon 3rd March – African Drumming Y6 and Ukulele workshop Y5
Thur 6th March – World Book Day
Fri 21st March – Reports come home
Tue 25th and Thur 27th March – Parents Evenings
Fri 4th April – Last Day of term

Celebrations

Class Assemblies – These are the dates for class assemblies for this term. Please come and celebrate the children's achievements with them. These will start at 9am.

Thur 6th Feb – Mexico
Thur 13th Feb – Italy
Wed 26th Feb - USA
Thur 27th Feb – SL
Wed 5th Mar – New Zealand
Thur 13th Mar – Japan (main hall) Thailand (Small Hall)
Wed 19th Mar - UK
Thur 20th Mar – India
Thur 27th Mar – China
Thur 3rd Apr – SA



Vine leaves – **Daisy M (Ita)** – Friendship - for checking in on her friends when they might be feeling excluded at play times. **Nathan K (Tha)** – Service - the best tidier-upper ever and never needs to be asked to help and tidies up not only his own but others mess too. **Felix F (Ind)** - Wisdom – watching him completing his times tables check is great as he does it with so much confidence and speed. **Bonnie H (Ind)** - Friendship and Service - for helping a child in the class find their handmade craft. **Ruairi F (USA)** - Humility - he is always thinking about others and pushing himself and others to be the best he can be. **Aurelio A (SL)** - Wisdom - Aurelio has contributed lots to our class discussion this week and showed a deep and critical level of thinking. **Amelie-Joy K (Mex)** - Humility - Amelie-Joy is humble, kind and always puts others first. Alongside her servant-heartedness, she has the capacity to change the world. **Lucy C (Mex)** - Service - she goes about her business and would help anyone with anything. She is responsible and trustworthy and an asset to our community. **Tommy B (Mex)** and **Archie-Deane (Mex)** - Forgiveness - these boys were able to look past silly differences and forgive one another. They could see that instead of being divided, they could do good things together! **Martha G (NZ)** - Friendship - She is the first to notice if someone is in need of a friend and she talks to other children with such gentleness and kindness - she really is a star! **Olivia W (Chi)** and **Phoebe J (Chi)** - Kindness - for showing kindness to a friend when they really needed a pick-me-up. **Aimee R (Chi)** - Wisdom - for absolutely smashing her times table test and practicing every day. Oscar (Chi and Skyla (Chi) for humility/service and for always modelling excellent manners and politeness to adults- it does not go unnoticed!

Achievements -



Daniel P (SA) – won 2 gold medals and got three more County Championship qualifying times in swimming

Seb H (Jap) – competed in his first Atlantis gala and won a Bronze medal

Ava M (NZ) – moved up to Stage 5 in swimming

Journey

A support group for Parents and Carers of Autistic and SEN Children

Come along this month to any of our sessions and meet with other parents on a similar journey to you.

No diagnosis required, no pressure, just a free cuppa and a chat.



Ashington

ashington.wardens@horsham.gov.uk

Friday 17 Jan | 10am - 11am

Friday 14 Feb | 10am - 11am

Friday 14 Mar | 10am - 11am

Ashington Church, Church Lane, RH20 3JX

Pulborough

pulborough.wardens@horsham.gov.uk

Thursday 16 Jan | 10am - 11am

Thursday 13 Feb | 10am - 11am

Thursday 13 Mar | 10am - 11am

Pulborough Library, Brooks Way, off Lower Street, Pulborough. RH20 2BP

Storrington & Sullington

storrington-sullingtonwardens@horsham.gov.uk

Tuesday 21 Jan | 10am - 11am

Tuesday 18 Feb | 10am - 11am

Tuesday 18 Mar | 10am - 11am

Storrington Library, (North Street) Car Park, 6 North Street, Storrington. RH20 4NZ

Southwater

southwater.wardens@horsham.gov.uk

Thursday 23 Jan | 10:30am - 11:30am

Thursday 20 Feb | 10:30am - 11:30am

Thursday 20 Mar | 10:30am - 11:30am

Beeson House, 26 Lintot Square, Fairbank Road, Southwater. RH13 9LA

Billingshurst

billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk

Monday 13 Jan | 9.00am - 10.30am

The Depot, 83a High Street, Billingshurst.

*further dates to follow



NEIGHBOURHOOD
WARDENS



Horsham
District
Council



FEBRUARY HALF TERM SOCCER CAMP

**17TH, 18TH + 19TH
OF FEBRUARY**

**ST MARY'S PRIMARY
SCHOOL,
LINK LANE,
PULBOROUGH,
RH20 2AN**

**09:45 - 15:00
(EARLY DROP
OFF FROM 08:45)**

**4-12
YEAR OLDS
£20 FOR ONE DAY,
£55 FOR ALL 3!**



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CONNECTING CAFE 2

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At

*Pulborough Sports
& Social Club*

-

Thursdays

11.30am - 1.30pm

- PAY IF YOU CAN
- DON'T WORRY IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD A MEAL WE HAVE YOU COVERED
- DONATE A MEAL IF YOU CAN

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Charity number: 1116253

4 CFC - Girls Elite Academy Horsham

Physical, Technical, Psychological &
Social development in Football



4 CORNER
FOOTBALL
COACHING



4 CFC - Girls Elite Academy Training

5-14 years old welcome

Trail Date - Wednesday 19th February

Venue - Horsham Rugby Club 4G Pitch - RH13 6PJ

5.00-6.00pm

BOOK NOW - www.4cfc.co.uk

Email - info@4cfc.co.uk

**CHILDCARE
VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED**



Ofsted
Registered



4 CORNER
FOOTBALL
COACHING

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



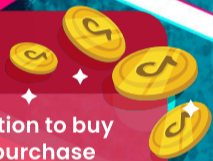
While TikTok’s Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user’s previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more 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.

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.

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.

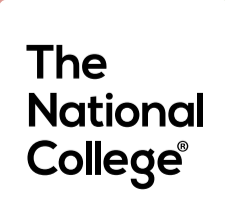
READ THE SIGNS



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>