



Dear Parents and Carers

## Tik Tok – Information for Parents

### Parents are reminded that the legal age for Tik Tok is 13.

Schools are seeing an increasing number of issues linked to posts on TikTok. The issue is not really a technical one with TikTok, but that it is a very popular platform and some children might need some reminders about appropriate behaviour! The message isn't that TikTok is worse than anything else, the message is that poor behaviour on any app is a problem but as most children do more on TikTok there are more problems there!

Schools may find these myth busters useful with children to help remind them about inappropriate use!

- MYTH            Reposting a clip that someone else made isn't a problem
- Reposting a video or clip that isn't nice can really hurt people and is as bad legally as posting it in the first place. You can get in trouble both with the school and possibly the Police for re-posting!
- MYTH            There isn't anything you should do if you see an inappropriate clip.
- Report it and stop more harm being done!
- MYTH            Nothing I post can be traced back to me.
- The device you use has a unique ip address and police can trace this back to your phone – usually through your service provider
- MYTH            Anyone can use TikTok
- The minimum age is 13, anyone younger than 13 is breaking the terms and conditions of the service and the account can be deleted Only use an app if your parents or carers approve!
- MYTH            It's not illegal to post a joke video.
- The malicious communication act makes it illegal to post a message that is grossly offensive, indecent or menacing. The school or others may choose to contact the Police.
- MYTH            The Police can't do anything
- The Police can and will act, and some youngsters have found that as they get older when they apply for jobs in some careers, for instance caring or working with children or older people their online behaviour may stop them getting a job!
- MYTH            It does not matter because no-one will ever find it
- Many companies are starting to search social media before making a job offer – if you have posted something inappropriate they will probably find it!
- MYTH            I posted it at home - even if I get found out the school can't do anything
- Your school behaviour policy will allow them to act even if you posted it at home. Some pupils have been excluded as a result of what they have posted.
- MYTH            Teachers cannot take my phone off me...
- Teachers are allowed to search and confiscate phones. This is explained in the DfE guidance published in 2018.

## Children in Need

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November was Children in Need Day. A total of £129 was raised £129 including £38 from Year 3 end of the day stall – Well done Year 3

## Tea Time Club

Places for Tea Time Club must be booked by the Wednesday of each week for the upcoming week so we can ensure there is enough staff available to run the club. Places can be booked by sending a message via Class Dojo to Mrs Watson or class teacher.

Please be aware:

- If your child is not pre-booked then unfortunately they will not be able to attend.
- Children cannot change their mind once booked, they will be expected to attend.

The club will run from the end of the school day until 4:15pm. Children should be picked up at the Breakfast Club entrance near the nursery at the end of the session. Please be aware that pick up time needs to be prompt as staff running the club finish work at 4:30pm. Thanks for your support in this manner.

## Nursery and Little Learners only - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021

School will be **CLOSED** to all **NURSERY and LITTLE LEARNERS** on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021** as the whole school are visiting The Gala Theatre.

## School Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Our annual Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. If your child normally brings a packed lunch and would like to have a school Christmas lunch instead please could you let us know by **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021**.

The meal costs **£2.10** for those children not entitled to a free school meal and must be paid for using **Parent Pay**.

## Parent Governor

We currently have 2 vacancies for Parent Governor, if you would be interested or would like more information please contact Mrs. Northcott.

## DOJO's – Year 1 to 6

Just to clarify, with staff as much as parents', children get a range of red and green dojos automatically each day.

### Green DOJOS

- 1 for morning attendance
- 1 for afternoon attendance
- 1 for more than 3 reading comments
- 1 for 100% accelerated reader score

### Red DOJOS

- 1 for no book bag / organiser
- 1 for incomplete uniform
- 1 for no PE kit
- 1 for no reading comments

Each lesson children can get 1 green or 1 red dojo depending on their attitude to learning.



November 2021	
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Year 2 visit to Durham Cathedral
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Non-Uniform Day
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Influenza Immunisation
December 2021	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	EYFS Nativity
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	EYFS Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Gala Theatre Visit
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Non-Uniform Day
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Christmas Carol Service on school yard 1.00pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Break up for Christmas Holidays
January 2022	
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Children return to school



It is vitally important that **ALL** absences are reported to the school office on the first day of absence to notify us of the reasons for absences and the expected date of return, otherwise they may be recorded as unauthorised which could possibly lead to referrals to the Attendance Improvement Team or legal proceedings.

Absences can be reported by contacting the school office on 01740 651512 or sending a class dojo message or emailing the school [deanbank@durhamlearning.net](mailto:deanbank@durhamlearning.net) Where absences persist beyond 1 day, please keep in regular contact (ideally daily) with the school.

Please ensure **ALL** appointments are made out of school hours (where possible). If your child is attending an appointment first thing on a morning please ensure to inform the school office to allow lunch arrangements to be in place upon their return. Evidence of appointments must be shown to the school office or emailed to school to ensure our records are correct at all times.

Although we have seen an improvement in attendance we are still working on improving this further. Guidance for school attendance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>. If you have any concerns please contact school.

**Children's expected attendance is 96%, our whole school attendance current stands at 91.32%. (Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021)**

Although we monitor our attendance really closely we are also expected to report our Persistent Absence. If a child is absent for 10% of their school sessions e.g. their attendance is less than 90%, then they are classed as being persistently absent. The expectation is that our persistent absence is below the national of 10.8%, our rate is currently 36.75% (Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021).

### **Attendance in schools - Who is a parent?**

It's important that schools and local authorities are aware that parents may be recognised differently under education law, then under family law. Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 states that a 'parent', in relation to a child or young person, includes any person who is not a parent (from which can be inferred 'biological parent') but who has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child.

For the purposes of education law, the department considers a 'parent' to include:

\*all biological parents, whether they are married or not

\*any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative

\*any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person

A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

Example: This may be a foster carer or family and friend's carer who does not have parental responsibility but has been delegated the responsibility for taking day-to-day decisions about the child.

In cases where a person is not the biological parent of a child, does not have 'parental responsibility' for that child and that child no longer lives with them, it's unlikely that they will be recognised as a 'parent'. Any disputes about whether a person is a child's 'parent' within the meaning of section 576 Education Act 1996, are for the courts to decide.