



Offley Newsletter 13

— 12th December 2025 —

This week the school has been buzzing with more festive cheer than Santa's workshop! The KS1 and EYFS Christmas shows were nothing short of spectacular, with the children lighting up the stage with confidence, joy, and enthusiasm. Christmas Jumper Day brought a dazzling array of knitwear, while Christmas dinner day truly got us all into the Christmas spirit.

Amidst all the sparkle and celebration, we have been learning that Christmas is not just about the fun and festivities, but also about kindness, caring for one another, and spreading goodwill throughout our community.



LUNCH TIME

Menu
w/c 15.12.25

Week 1

DINE WITH MIQUILL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Beef Burger in a Bun with House Wedges and Green Salad or Peas	Lasagne with Garlic Bread and Sweetcorn or Side Salad	Roast Chicken Stuffed & Gravy with Roast Potatoes and Carrots or Broccoli	Chicken Wrap with Rice and Rainbow Slaw	Fish Fingers with Chips and Garden Peas or Baked Beans
Quorn Burger in a Bun with House Wedges and Green Salad or Peas	Vegetarian Bolognese with Garlic Bread and Sweetcorn or Side Salad	Veggie Potato Cakes with Carrots & Broccoli	Chicken Baked Bean Wrap with Rice and Rainbow Slaw	Vegetarian Vegetable Fingers with Chips and Garden Peas or Baked Beans
Homemade Beef Burger with Potato Wedges and Green Salad or Peas	Veggie Bean Bolognese with Pasta and Sweetcorn or Side Salad	Roast Chicken & Gravy with Roast Potatoes and Carrots or Broccoli	Chicken Wrap with Rice and Rainbow Slaw	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Chips and Garden Peas or Baked Beans
Jacket Potatoes and Pasta available daily.	Jacket Potatoes and Pasta available daily.	Jacket Potatoes and Pasta available daily.	Jacket Potatoes and Pasta available daily.	Jacket Potatoes and Pasta available daily.
Freshly made sandwiches and salad bar are also available				
Dessert Sweet choices	Ice Cream	Lemon Drizzle	Chocolate Brouille	Apple Flapjack

WEEK COMMENCING:
21/12/25, 22/12/25, 23/12/25, 24/12/25, 25/12/25, 26/12/25

Fresh Bread is available daily with a choice of Yoghurt, jelly, and Fruit instead of dessert

MIQUILL



Tuesday 16th December
Change of menu for **Preschool**
and **Reception** children.
The choice on that day will be:

Fishfingers, chips and
peas/beans
or
Jacket potato
or
Ham or cheese sandwich
with biscuit for dessert.

Mark
YOUR
Calendar

The Academy website now has an events calendar which will be updated to include all key dates in school. Please save the page in your favourites:

<https://offley.cheshire.sch.uk/events/month/>



Please can we ask that when dropping off and collecting children from The Zone, the pavements are used to walk to and from the entrance. It is difficult to see pedestrians when reversing on the car park during the darker nights. Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe.



A little reminder that the St. Luke's Elf Run will be jingling its way into school on Thursday, 18th December. We can't wait to see a whole army of mini-elves dashing about with more energy than Santa's reindeer on Christmas Eve! This festive favourite is always a highlight of the season, giving the children a chance to run, giggle, and spread Christmas cheer—all while raising funds for a very good cause.

Please could all sponsor forms and money be returned to school by **Monday 15th December** so that we can finalise totals and celebrate!





TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor Musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities – social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media stardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



SOURCES:

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