



**Newsletter**  
**Date: 24.05.24**

**Our next newsletter will be on 14.6.24**  
**We will keep you up to date with news from across the school and useful information each fortnight.**  
**With half-term next week, remember Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June is an INSET day and school reopens to pupils on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Have a lovely half-term holiday!**

### **Himley Hall Dragon Boat Race event**

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 3 Hales Valley Dragon Boats took to the lake at Himley Hall. The day was perfect- sunny weather, lots of families cheering the teams on and a final with Hales Valley boats against each other! After digging very deep and giving every ounce of effort- we are very proud to say the boat with some Gig Mill crew were crowned winners! Already there is talk of the rematch in 2026!

All of this fun took place to raise funds for charities supported by Wolverhampton Rotary Club Charitable Trust and we as a Trust are also raising money for 3 charities - Local: Black Country Food Bank, National: NSPCC and Global: Save the Children. Here is a link if you would like to show your support for the team of rowers and donate to these good causes.

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/hales-valley-trust-dragon-boat-race>



#### **Attendance**

Week beginning 13.05.24

Class	%	Class	%	Class	%
RDS	91.33	2B	97.6	5H	93.67
RP	93.21	3F	93.67	5K	95.58
1J	97.31	3B	96	5A	94.67
1W	98	3FG	90	6DS	99
1D	94.17	4R	98	6W	99.31
2N	91.73	4P	96	6GW	98.52
2H	91.6	4JP	93.46	BASE	82.5

#### **Attendance**

Week beginning 20.05.24

Class	%	Class	%	Class	%
RP	92.5	2B	99.2	5H	92
RDS	92.33	3F	90.67	5K	98
1J	95	3B	87.67	5A	91.33
1W	95.2	3FG	94.19	6DS	93
1D	96.8	4R	97.2	6W	96.21
2N	92.69	4P	92.4	6GW	94.81
2H	86.8	4JP	89.23	BASE	96.25

## PE Uniform

- Plain black shorts or joggers
- Coloured house t-shirts or their school white polo shirt
- School jumper/cardigan
- Appropriate footwear (trainers/pumps)
- NO jewellery should be worn in PE

PE days	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Summer term					
Outdoor	Year 5	Year 1 and Year 4	Year 3		Year 2 Year 6
Indoor	Year 3	Year 2	4JP Year 6	4P, 4R Year 5	Reception
Swimming		Reception	1J 1W	1D	

An enormous thank you to the **HSA** and all the volunteers who helped move all our brand new benches into positions on our playground areas around school. The benches were purchased following fundraising from our HSA and they are a wonderful social space for children to meet and chat with their friends.

Look out for the flyers on parentmail this week for the EY/KS1 magic show and our family summer event which this year is a circus-complete with a big-top!

**With the warmer weather, please check your child has a sun hat, sun cream and their water bottle in school each day.**

### A special shout-out to Y6!

Last week, our Year 6 pupils had a busy week working on their SATs. Everyone is really proud of how hard they have been working.

The Y6 teachers wanted to say a big well-done to you all on this week's newsletter!



## TTRockstars

Part of the maths curriculum is for children to learn their times tables up to 12x12, and to be able to recall these rapidly from memory. TTRS supports children with learning and revising the tables in a fun, game-style way. You can access this app through the internet at <https://play.ttrockstars.com> or by downloading the Times Tables Rock Stars app from your app store. Children in Y3-Y6 have a personal login and password to access this great resource.

3 minutes 3 to 4 times a week will really help support your child with learning their times tables. We can't wait to see who will become a Times Table Rock Star!

### Values Award Winner

#### PERSEVERANCE

Week ending: 17.05.24

Class		Class		Class	
1D	Rosa	3B	Viktor	5A	Fred
1J	Amelia	3F	Freddie	5H	Roxy
1W	Riley	3FG	Callum	5K	Gage
2B	Darcey	4JP	Reeva	6DS	Annabelle
2H	Ayla	4P	Daisy	6GW	Sophie
2N	Liberty-Jo	4R	Tilly	6W	Rhys
				BASE	Jonah

### Values Award Winner

#### PERSEVERANCE

Week ending: 24.05.24

Class		Class		Class	
1D	Samuel	3B	Aman	5A	Tommy
1J	Layton	3F	Nevaeh	5H	James
1W	Alfie	3FG	Jacob	5K	Alfie
2B	Thomas	4JP	Jonah	6DS	Yousef
2H	Alfred	4P	Teddy	6GW	Corey
2N	Fraiser	4R	Linkon	6W	Logan
				BASE	Arran

Think it's too early to book a nursery place? You can express an interest in a nursery place from the moment your child is born!



# FREE NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE

Tel: 01384 818600

[info@gig-mill.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@gig-mill.dudley.sch.uk)

Complete an enquiry form and we will contact you closer to your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

**EYFS rated Outstanding**  
Ofsted

Ofsted says:  
"Children make an exceptional start in early years"



We are currently considering offering 30 hrs placements for 3 year olds too – please let us know if this would be of interest to you.

**Ofsted rated OUTSTANDING**  
in  
Behaviour & Attitudes  
Early Years Provision



Ofsted says:  
'Pupils love to learn, and staff expect the very best outcomes for them'

# RECEPTION PLACES AVAILABLE

**Ofsted rated GOOD in**  
Quality of Education  
Personal Development  
Leadership & Management



**Gig Mill Primary School**

Tel: 01384 818600

[info@gig-mill.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@gig-mill.dudley.sch.uk)

# In the news this week

An all-girls football team has won a league dominated by boys' teams, after going unbeaten for an entire season. The Queens Park Ladies U12s finished top of their table with eighteen wins in the group of eleven boys' teams. They were the only girls' team in the Bournemouth Youth Football League, playing in its third division for under-12s. The players, who train twice a week, have now proved themselves against the other teams.

## Things to talk about at home ...

- > Share your thoughts on why you think some other teams pre-judged the Queens Park Ladies U12s.
- > Have you ever experienced a time when someone has made an assumption about you that has been wrong or unfair?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

20th - 25th May



# TAKEHOME



Is it fair to judge others based on first impressions?

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

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CONTENT

### DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

### IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £3.99 to an eye-watering £99. TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthday.

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 132 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

### TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the "TikTok Now" feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

### MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

### LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday