

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

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As the academic year quickly approaches the end, we have a few items to share with you.

Sports Day



Sports day will take place on 30th June 2021, weather permitting. However, we will hold this event internally in school and, it is with deep regret, that parents will not be able to attend school to watch. This is due to Covid-19 restrictions which are still in place for Step 3. Reception and KS1 will take place in the morning. KS2 will take place in the afternoon. Children will remain in their bubbles and there will be restrictions on mixing with other bubbles. Children are very good and aware of this.

Lateral Flow Device Test Kits

It has been strongly advised that parents should order their own set of Lateral Flow Device Test Kits. Please see the link to order these kits which can be delivered to your home. <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>



Sacraments

Our first special mass for sacraments took place on Saturday 12th June for Year 4 to receive their First Holy Communion. The children and parents were delighted that the event could take place. The second group will have their special mass for First Holy Communion on Saturday 19th June at 11am in English Martyrs Catholic Church.

As restriction have not lifted, Confirmation will have to be split into two groups. We have gone back to the original two dates which were:

Saturday July 10th 11am Confirmation group 1

Saturday July 17th 11am Confirmation group 2



We would like the groups to be equally split so that the church restrictions of 60 parishioners are adhered to. We can let parents decide which day they would like but if the groups are not split equally then school will have to intervene. Parents must keep numbers to a minimum and a Microsoft Form will go out once groups have been decided so parents can detail numbers of attendees per family. We would like you to fit on one bench where possible. Benches will be allocated.

The current Year 3 will make their Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in the Autumn term. Father Gerry and I will meet to make arrangement for the next academic year and will let parents know in due course.



Transition Day was organised for Wednesday 7th July. However, secondary schools have now changed the date for Year 6 to transition to their new schools and this has been arranged on an individual school basis. Most schools have moved the date to a Friday. Secondary schools have asked if children who attend their secondary schools can follow their procedures, e.g. facemasks and Lateral Flow Testing before attending. Please check with your secondary what the procedure should be for the day your child attends.

Within school, we have kept transition day the same so that teachers have an opportunity to meet their class. On the afternoon of Wednesday 7th July, the children will move to their new classes and have an initial meeting with their new teacher. The school will let you know who the new teacher will be for the academic year 2021 to 2022.

As this has been a difficult year for children and with the anticipation of moving to their new class, it has been decided that children will have further transition days so they can become more familiar with their new teacher and the classroom. Therefore, on 19th, 20th and 21st July, children will attend their new classroom and work with their new teacher. We are very excited about the prospect of meeting our new class before the term ends so that teachers and staff can become more familiar with the children and the children feel more comfortable about the prospect of coming back to school in the new academic year.

Reading competition

Our Reading competition still continues and, with less than five weeks left, we hope that children are making the most of their reading opportunities at home so they are in with a chance to win one of our Amazon Fire 7 tablet 16GB which will be given to one person in Reception and KS1 and the other in KS2. Children can read any books e.g. home reading book or books from Bug Club online. Teachers will record the amount of books read from Bug Club. All we ask is that parents sign the Green reading record book as proof that their child has read the books. In Year 5 and 6, children have been asked to spend thirty minute sessions reading a book.

Here is an outline of the awards that children can win if they read books:



Reading Competition

- We want to start our reading competition again to encourage reading

Bronze award
Read 20 books and get a bronze certificate and a pencil

Silver Award
Read 40 books and get a silver certificate and an enamel badge KS1 R
A bookmarker KS2

Gold award
Read 60 books and get a Gold certificate and a special ticket for the prize draw

Below are nine hints and tips for families to read together. Happy reading everyone and best of luck for the prize draw.

9 creative ways to read as a family

1. Nourishing the Meal Time, have your kids read recipes aloud to you while you're cooking dinner. From ingredient lists to cooking directions, this kind of family reading will help build vocabulary, fluency...and dessert!
2. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? While your family is eating together, discuss what your favourite characters would have for dinner – Harry Potter might like pumpkin juice and chocolate frogs while Geronimo Stilton could crave some cheese! Incorporating characters of favourite stories into your eating routine is a delicious way to promote deep thinking about character traits and motivation.
3. Story Charades - Choose a story your family knows well, like a well-read book or fairy-tale — and act out the beginning, middle, and end of the story. If you have more family than characters, a few could do the acting and the others can be the audience or be the narrator. This activity helps readers re-examine and understand story lines and details.
4. Who Am I? Choose one of your child's favourite book characters, then describe his or her personality traits, problems, and physical descriptions until she guesses the character's identity. This game is a fun way to pass time when you're stuck in traffic or at a bus stop.
5. Book Nooks Create "book nooks" with your child. Book nooks are comfy places to sit and read. They should have good lighting and containers filled with sticky notes, colourful pens, pencils, and a small dictionary. Book nooks will motivate your children not only to read, but to select favourite parts with sticky notes, or look up words they don't know.
6. Marking the Spot Making book marks together is a great, simple family reading activity. Just cut bookmark-sized cardboard from cereal or shoe boxes, then get crafty! Use brightly-coloured markers to write titles, authors, and favourite quotes. Younger readers can draw or cut and paste pictures from old magazines.
7. Reach Out and Read Boost family reading by involving loved-ones who live far away. Using Zoom or another video conferencing program, have your child share a book with relatives. Make sure the book is one that your reader has read a few times already; repetition is a fantastic way to enhance reading skills. Younger readers love to show-off their fluency, and oral reading builds confidence. Grandma will be pretty thrilled as well.
8. Kid Karaoke - Download songs and their lyrics for a family karaoke night. Seeing words and singing them at the same time is a fun way to develop vocabulary...and practice your Elvis impersonations!
9. Family Reading Web pages - Using simple and free online programs, create a family reading Web page. Include sections for each family member's book reviews, favourite book lists, "authors I'd like to lunch with" lists, pictures of famous authors, links to local libraries, kid-safe fan pages, and reading games.

Summer Fete and Barn Dance

Due to delays in the next step of the Covid roadmap, we are unable to hold the Summer Fete and Barn Dance which features at the end of the year.

Sunflowers



In February we sent everyone sunflower seeds. This was to spread a little hope and inspiration for the spring and summer to come. Sunflowers are a symbol of loyalty and longevity. Sunflowers are known for being “happy” flowers, making them the perfect gift to bring joy to someone’s day! We would love to know how your sunflowers have grown and if they are spreading joy. This is how Mrs Batchelor’s sunflower is progressing.



Support for Families

Family Information Service (FIS): Information and advice for families and carers will be available via the Helpline **01926 742274** and fis@warwickshire.gov.uk from 09:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday.

Family Information Service (FIS)

We provide information, advice and one-to-one support for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 across Warwickshire on issues including:

- family relationships
- finance
- housing
- parenting support
- special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- childcare
- health and wellbeing



Here is information for CWRise which has useful information accessible to professionals, children, and parents on their website. <https://cwrise.com/>

There is also advice and information on this website when supporting with covid19

challenges. <https://cwrise.com/advice-and-important-information-during-covid-19>

Pupil Premium

Schools are given a pupil premium for:

- Children who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years. The school receives £1320 for each of these children.
- Children who are or have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day. These children are awarded a premium of £2300.
- Children from service families who receive a child pension from the Ministry of Defence. They are awarded £300.

In March 2018 the Government announced that free school meals would only be available to children in KS2 whose families have a net income of £7400 or under, effective from 1 April 2018. If your child was previously entitled to free school meals but is no longer, they will still receive pupil premium based on the 'Ever 6' qualification (a pupil who has ever had free school meals in the past six years).

Prior to April 2018, children qualified for free school meals – and accordingly pupil premium – if you received any of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers' allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less

These benefits have now been rolled into a single benefit, called **Universal Credit**. From April 2018, free school meals and pupil premium will only be allocated to pupils with a family income under £7400 (net) per year.

School's spend this pupil premium based on what they feel are the needs of the children and schools can vary widely on how this is spent.

Since September 2014, all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 have qualified for free school meals, regardless of their family income, but only the children who would qualify for free meals under the above income-based criteria will receive the pupil premium. **If your child would qualify for free school meals, even if they are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 it is important that you register and claim free school meal via the Warwickshire website. The school does not automatically receive this money** and it is the only means schools have to receive the additional funding.

Link for applying for Free School Meals: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals>

Online Safety Information

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to share advice and tips for parents about different online platforms or social media sites that some children may be using. Look out for further tips shared on our website, Twitter and Facebook page. In this newsletter, we have attached "TikTok". We are aware that we have already sent this but we are supporting parent concerns regarding this social media app.

Diary Dates

I have included more diary dates below but this is purely dependent on Boris Johnson's Road Map Step 3 which will be released on 17th May and Step 4 on 21st June. We do hope that things will get back to some sort of normality soon.

June

19th First Holy Communion Year 4 group 2 at 11am - English Martyrs church
30th Sports Day Reception and KS1 in the morning and KS2 in the afternoon – parents do not attend.

July

6th Reports out to parents and announcement of class teachers
7th Induction Day Years 1 to 5 only
10th Confirmation Year 6 group 1 at 11am - English Martyrs church
16th End of term assembly
17th Confirmation Year 6 group 2 at 11am - English Martyrs church
19th, 20th, 21st Transition to new year group. Year 6 will stay with their class teacher. 19th,
19th, 20th, 21st Reception parents will be invited to meet the class teacher with their child.
21st End of School year

School Improvement Suggestion



As a school we are always striving to improve, a good school listens to suggestions and opinions which can often lead to school improvement and positive change. If you have any suggestions you wish to share with the school, please fill the slip in below and hand it in to the school office or in the white letterbox in reception. Parents can also visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk to complete the parent view questionnaire.

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around 800 million active users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
12+
Under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.

What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – so it is possible for a child to be exposed to explicit and age-inappropriate content.



EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and want to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.



TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities. Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be "the next big thing" will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep you intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.



IN-APP PURCHASES

There's an in-app option to purchase "TikTok coins", which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. Buying coins is now restricted to over-18s – but TikTok doesn't require users to verify their age on sign up, so a young person could easily access this feature if they were determined to.



Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.



MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

In early 2021, TikTok changed the default setting for all under 18s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The "Stitch" (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and "Duet" (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 18s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.



LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.



ENABLE FAMILY SAFETY MODE

'Family Safety Mode' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok refreshed its Safety Centre in May 2021, providing new resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.



USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.



Meet our expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Click: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



SOURCES: www.tiktok.com



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