

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 2: 22nd October 2021

www.englishmartyrs.warwickshire.sch.uk

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@EMCPrimary



We've had a wonderful start back to school and children have absorbed the new normal in school. We are now back to having full assemblies and hymn practice. Children are enjoying going back into church and celebrating mass. We look forward to a time when the parents are welcomed back into church and we will let you know when this can happen. We've already had our first sacrament taken place in church. Year 4 made their Reconciliation on 18th October. We are already looking forward to First Holy Communion taking place on Saturday 20th and 27th November. Father Gerry and I have decided that there will be no Confirmation enrolment mass on Sunday 7th November. However, to replace this, Year 6 children will have their enrolment mass on Thursday 11th November which is their own class mass with Year 3.

Thank you to all the parents who have looked after our school community and continued to use LFD tests and PCR testing this half term to ensure everyone stays safe in school.

Antibullying week 15th November



This year antibullying week will take place week beginning 15th November. The classes will have activities set and there will be a whole school assembly. We would like children (and adults) to wear odd socks on Monday 15th November 2021.

Harvest Festival Appeal 2021 and Rugby Food Bank

This autumn term, we collected food for Rugby Food Bank. We were overwhelmed by the amount of food collected from the community. This was also reflected by the volunteers who came to collect the food packages from school. Thank you so much for your generosity.



Parent Consultation Meetings and looking at books

Thank you for attending the virtual Parent Consultation meetings this week. They were very successful and teachers and parents persevered with the technical issues. Thank you for your patience. It was arranged that an opportunity for parents to look through their child's books would take place in the second half term. However, due to the rising numbers in Rugby, we would like to wait to set dates for this to take place and be considerate of the locality Covid-19 numbers.

Trinity Catholic School

Trinity Catholic Secondary School would like you to be aware of their new Transport Bursary below. The bursary would be given on an annual basis up to and including Year 11.



We are an Ofsted rated Good school and part of a rapidly expanding Multi-Academy. We are committed to providing a Catholic Education within Warwickshire and are fully aware that we are the nearest Catholic Secondary School to Rugby since the closure of Bishop Wulstan School.

If you decide to choose Trinity Catholic School as your 1st preference Secondary school and are currently a Year 6 pupil at English Martyrs Catholic Primary School or St Marie's Catholic Primary School, you may be eligible for our Transport Bursary of £300, payable in Year 7.

PTFA EVENTS

The PTFA met on Monday 11th October 2021. We are looking to introduce some organised events to take place during the next half-term. We are hoping to reintroduce cake sales, non-uniform days, Christmas Tree sales etc. Here are some upcoming events:

- Be Loved English Martyrs Uniform pop up sale at the end of the school day on 5th November. This will be a sale of lost property, second-hand, good quality school uniform.
- Cake sale after school on 5th November – please bring in cakes and children can buy at break time. Please allow your child to bring up to £1 to buy a cake. They will require change for this event.
- Christmas Celebration outdoor event 3.30pm on Thursday 2nd December.

Payments

Please ensure all payments within school go through **SIMS 360 PAY** system as the school is cashless. Can we please remind those parents who not yet registered for this payment system to do so asap to enable you to pay for the forthcoming trips.

All extra-curricular activities i.e. Football, Martial Arts, Irish Dancing, Basketball, Yoga fees are paid directly to the coaches and not to the school. Therefore, you need to put money into an envelope with your child's name and the activity that they doing. This should be handed to the school office or put into the payments box in the reception area.

Dinner Money Costs:

- £2.50 a day
- £12.50 for a 5 day week

Weekly dinner money must be paid for in advance. This is paid via **SIMS 360 PAY**.

If you haven't already registered, please do so. If you require a new activation code, please contact the school office.

Covid-19 positive cases

Please ensure that you follow the guidance for Covid-19 using the link [Covid-19 - Guidance for households](#)

Please read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) which can be found on our website or by clicking the link.

If your child tests positive, please inform school as soon as possible by calling the school office on 01788 543423. Outside of school hours please notify the school by emailing admin3564@welearn365.com We will notify parents of the positive case. It is recommended that you get a PCR test for your child and continue to use Lateral Flow Device Test twice weekly.

Children do not have to self-isolate if they are waiting for a test. However, if your child starts to show symptoms they must stay at home.

The school will make a log of all children and staff in the setting who have tested positive for COVID-19 including dates for onset of symptoms (if relevant) and test dates, as well as any links and exposures inside or outside of the setting. NHS Test and Trace should have been in contact with the positive case to ascertain some of the known close contacts and recommended any contacts to get a PCR test.

It is suggested, as a minimum, school ask all close contacts that the child may have had in their infectious period (2 clear days prior to day of symptoms onset/test (if no symptoms) through to 10 days afterwards) to get a PCR test.

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.

Schools 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.

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 "**What Parents Need To Know About TikTok**". We are aware that children enjoy watching videos on TikTok and they find it fun. Here are some things parents need to know.



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-synching 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 13: dependent on parental legal permission

What Parents & Carers 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 using harmful language or sexually suggestive imagery. TikTok videos are generally accessible to anyone, which means it's possible for a child to be exposed to explicit and age-inappropriate content.



EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-synching and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Even though you can use a parental control app to restrict your child's access to explicit language or suggestive actions, it's still possible for them to come across such content.



TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities. For example, users who posted videos by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become 'TikTok famous'. While most teens are hoping to be the next big thing, it's not always easy to get noticed. Some teens may struggle to get noticed, leading to feelings of isolation.



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 algorithm – it's possible for a child to be exposed to content that is harmful or inappropriate, including contact with predators.



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 videos, the app's ability to keep you engaged about what's trending and what's popular for a time is a key factor in its addictive nature.



IN-APP PURCHASES

There is 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 66 pence to an eye-watering £33 pounds. It's important to be aware of these purchases, as young people 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 or feel about what they see on TikTok could help them to become a social-media savvy.



MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

In early 2021, TikTok changed the default setting for all under-18 accounts to private. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'kitchen' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'duet' (where you build an answer to someone's video) features are now only available to over-18s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of not being a social-media star, but it will fortify their account against predators.



LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND LOCKING

If the correct privacy settings are applied, TikTok has a healthy safety system. However, it's essential to teach your child how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok also has a reporting system for users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block and restrict 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 the ability to exchange messages (and who they can) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok released its Family Safety mode 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 42 minutes to 1 hour). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can't get their regular dose of TikTok without waiting the whole day.



Meet our expert

Ramya Raj 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 the founder of @4U5 Tiktok, a website that helps parents and children navigate the digital world.



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Diary Dates

October

22nd Teacher Training Day – School Closed to Pupils

HALF TERM 25th OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 29th October

November

1st School reopens
2nd New telephone system being installed (may be interruptions to lines)
3rd Flu Vaccinations whole school
4th Mass Y1/Y4
5th Cake sale and Be Loved Uniform sale at the end of the day
11th Mass Y3/Y6
15th Odd Sock Day (Anti-Bullying Week)
17th Reception – vision screening
18th Mass Y5/Y2
20th Year 4 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION group 1
22nd PTFA meeting at Ex-service man's club at 8pm
25th Mass Y4/Y1
27th Year 4 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION group 2

December

2nd Mass Y6/Y3/Reception
2nd Christmas Celebration outdoor event 3.30pm
9th Mass Y5/Y2
16th Mass Y4 / whole school mass
17th 9:30am Carol Service/End of term presentations

January 2022

4th School begins for the Spring term all children in school

June

29th to 1st Beaumanor Hall Residential for Year 5

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: _____

