



## Wesley Methodist Primary School



Weekly Newsletter: WC 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

What a wonderful start we have had to the year at Wesley – the children have been incredible. Their attitudes to learning and behaviour have been fantastic, and it is a joy to see them settling back into routines so positively. Every day we see children living out our values of being Ready, Respectful and Safe, whether that's through their learning in the classroom or in the way they treat one another. It is heart-warming to hear them greeting each other, showing kindness, and demonstrating impeccable manners. We are so proud of every one of our children – they are certainly shining!

### Worship

Over this past week we have been exploring our Fruit of the Holy Spirit this week in 'joy' which is all about celebrating our own and others achievements. It has been lovely being able to give the children the opportunity to share the achievements of one another and celebrate each other. We also spend our phase assemblies time looking at generosity which is one of our Trust values. We share the parable of the 'The Widow's Offering' showcasing what generosity looks like and how doing all we can for others helps everyone. We explored how it feels to give to others and also what it feels like when we receive others generosity. The children could articulate this fantastically.



### Future Leaders in Action

Today we were delighted to welcome Freddy Fit into school to work with our Year 6 pupils on Playleader training. Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of activities designed to develop their confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills. The programme not only encouraged them to think carefully about how to organise and lead fun, inclusive games, but also highlighted the importance of communication, fairness, and responsibility. This is a fantastic opportunity for our oldest

pupils to take on a meaningful role in school life, acting as positive role models while supporting younger children in active play. Starting soon, our trained Playleaders will be out on the KS1 playground each lunchtime, helping to run enjoyable games and activities that make playtimes active, friendly, and fun for everyone. In addition to this, we are excited that next week we will also be announcing some of our other important leadership roles in school, with our new Prefects and House Captains taking on their responsibilities. These roles, alongside our Playleaders, give children brilliant opportunities to develop responsibility, showcase their skills, and make a positive contribution to our whole school community.



### Into the Woods

Our new KS1 Forest School after-school club has got off to a fantastic start! This club is a wonderful opportunity for our younger children to explore the outdoors more widely and develop important skills such as teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves during the first session and had a brilliant time working together in nature. They are already busy creating a range of exciting items using natural materials, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and imagination grow in this unique outdoor environment.



### Celebrating Languages and Cultures

Next Friday, we will be celebrating European Languages Day in school. This annual event is always a highlight on our calendar and brings such a wonderful excitement throughout Wesley. Each class will represent a different European country and will spend the day exploring its culture, food, traditions, and major events. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to broaden their knowledge, celebrate diversity, and experience the richness of another culture. To help mark the day, children are invited to come to school dressed in the colours of their chosen country – this will be on the letter that has come home and keep an eye out on your child's individual class dojo pages for more updates and information. It is sure to be an exciting day as always!



### What we're learning this half term

Each half term, we will be preparing a curriculum map for every class, which will be shared on your child's Class Dojo page. These maps outline the key areas of learning in each subject over the half term, giving you a clear picture of what your child will be covering in school. We hope this will not only give you a deeper insight into their learning journey but also spark meaningful conversations at home about the exciting topics and skills they are exploring.



## Online safety – what parents need to know about ‘combatting online bullying’

At Wesley, keeping children safe online is a top priority. While the digital world offers huge opportunities for learning, creativity, and fun, it also brings risks that children need support to navigate. To help with this, we will be sharing weekly guidance from The National College on different aspects of Online Safety. This week’s information is designed to give parents and carers important knowledge about TikTok – how it works, the potential risks, and how you can help your child use it safely and responsibly. We encourage you to read the guidance and have a conversation with your child about what you learn.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**  
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**  
Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users’ interests, based on what they’ve already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters “were most likely to encounter a potential harm”.

**AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
While TikTok’s following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, for You is a collection based on a user’s previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok’s guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**  
With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone’s profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

**BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES**  
According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the ‘blackout’ trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

**MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION**  
Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

**IN-APP SPENDING**  
TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £3.99 to an eye-watering £99, while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok’s policy is that under-18s can’t make in-app purchases, but it’s possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

**ADDICTIVE DESIGN**  
With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app, that’s twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people’s sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children’s ability to maintain focus.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

**ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING**  
Family pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child’s, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can’t alter these settings without parental approval.

**DISCUSS THE DANGERS**  
If a child wants to use TikTok and you’re happy for them to do so, it’s good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don’t share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they’re worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it’s also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

**BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING**  
If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We’d recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

**READ THE SIGNS**  
If you’re concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they’ve been emotionally affected by something they’ve seen, it’s important to know how to spot the signs: increased irritability and a lack of concentration on potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it’s never too late to introduce limits.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom’s Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

**#WakeUpWednesday**  
The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

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### Learning, Friendships, and Fun – Be Here Every Day

At Wesley, we believe that excellent attendance is vital to every child’s success and progress. Quite simply, the more time children spend in school, the more they learn, achieve, and grow. Good attendance not only supports academic progress but also helps children to build friendships and develop important social skills.

We celebrate attendance every week, with each class having the chance to earn money towards their end-of-year treat. This is a fun way to reward commitment and encourage everyone to play their part.

This term, we will be placing a strong focus on attendance and working closely with families to ensure that every child is in school every day, giving them the very best chance to shine.

**Our attendance winners this week are: Reception Sissay with 100%!**



Class name	Average attendance this week
Reception Sissay	100%
Reception Neville	95.8%
Year 1 Peel	97.2%
Year 1/2 Wood	90.7%
Year 2 Rashford	97%
Year 3 Garvey	96%
Year 3/4 Walsh	93.8%
Year 4 Lowry	93.5%
Year 5 Boyle	90.4%
Year 5/6 Turing	95.5%
Year 6 Pankhurst	96.7%



# WELL DONE!

### Star Award

The following children received their Star Award this week:

Reception Neville: **Bella M**

Reception Sissay: **Kilton N**

Year 1 Peel: **Kabir P**

Year 1/2 Wood: **Phoebe W**

Year 2 Rashford: **Harvey B**

Year 3 Garvey: **Stephen C**

Year 3/4 Walsh: **Andrew A**

Year 4 Lowry: **Alice O**

Year 5 Boyle: **Carter T**

Year 5/6 Turing: **Daisy F**

Year 6 Pankhurst: **Keegan T**

These children have done amazing:  
"shining like stars with love".

### Gold Award

The following children received their Gold Award this week:

Reception Neville: **Damien M**

Reception Sissay: **Kesha M**

Year 1 Peel: **Kobi B**

Year 1/2 Wood: **Poppy B**

Year 2 Rashford: **Jack M**

Year 3 Garvey: **Harley H**

Year 3/4 Walsh: **Scarlett Mc**

Year 4 Lowry: **Rowan Mc**

Year 5 Boyle: **Dorothy C**

Year 5/6 Turing: **Jack O**

Year 6 Pankhurst: **Amber B**

Well done to all of these children – we are so proud of you!

