

Welcome back after the Christmas break! It is heartening to note that the weather has finally warmed up a little. At Bingham Primary School, our values of RISE—Respect, Integrity, Service, and Excellence—are fundamental to our community. Recently, we have explored the concept of Respect in detail, and I encourage you to look out for stickers that read, "I've been caught showing respect." This initiative aims to recognise and celebrate instances of respect demonstrated by our pupils. Additionally, the introduction of reading buddies has proven to be greatly beneficial, fostering a love for reading while encouraging collaboration among students. Our pupils are working diligently, and it is wonderful to witness their enthusiasm in these endeavours.

As always if there are any concerns or questions, please look for me on the gate in the mornings or after school. You can also book an appointment in the school office.

Mrs Pask- 17.01.25



JOE ROEBUCK

Throughout the year we have visits from inspire + athletes to share their experiences with pupils. Joe is a swimmer and Commonwealth Games medallist. He spoke to pupils about the importance of teamwork.

NOTTS COUNTY

Charlie from Notts County has come into school to work with Y1 pupils on their football skills. They have enjoyed their session.



3.

Footwear

This time of the year means we are prone to having snow, ice and rain. Wellies and boots are a great idea. However, we do still need the children to have their school shoes in school. Pupils can change into other footwear at break times. Thank you for your support in this matter.

EYFS (ROBIN CLASS)

4.



The children have really enjoyed their topic on Dinosaurs this term. They can be found acting out the stories they have read.

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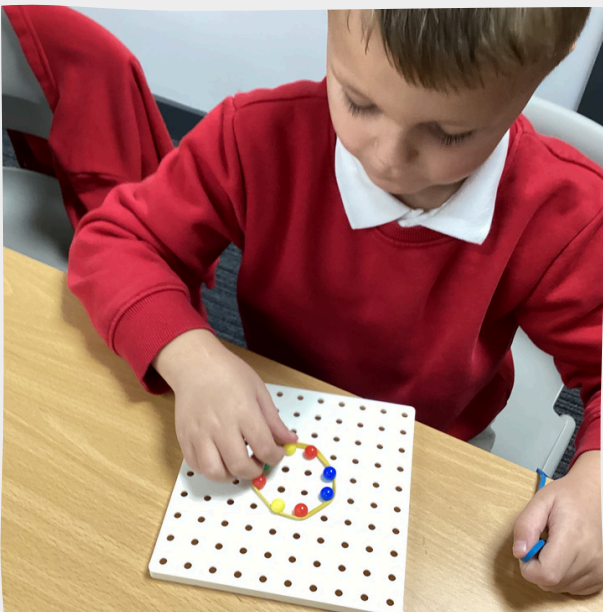
SWAN CLASS (YEAR 1)



In Year 1 they have been describing their own alien and finding different ways to make 20.

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BARN OWL (YEAR 2)



Year 2 have been busy publishing their own Dragon book and making 2D shapes by talking about their sides and vertices.

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KINGFISHER CLASS (YEAR 3&4)

Year 3 & 4 have enjoyed having Mrs Pask teach them for whole class reading each day. We have been reading *The Hodgeheg* and they have impressed me with their retrieval skills. They have also been looking at



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ARCHITECT



As part of their Art topic, Y5&6 are looking at Architecture. What better way to understand this than have an actual Architect come into school to inspire and talk to the pupils. Vince was amazing!



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STAR OF THE WEEK AND HEADTEACHER AWARD

Each week your child's class teacher chooses a star pupil of the week to be presented in assembly. I choose a pupil who has stood out in school for abiding by the Bingham Behaviours and our values.



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STARLING CLASS (YEAR 5&6)



Year 5 and 6 have been busy this week in all areas of the curriculum and are enjoying having their new teacher, Miss Pritchard.

In Science they have been recording the mass and weight of various classroom objects. They were able to identify that mass is 100 times the size of weight.

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READING BUDDY

As a school, we want children to love reading. One incentive we are trying is Reading Buddy. Younger children are paired with an older child who shares a story and listens to them read. They loved doing this and we will do this once a week.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK



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



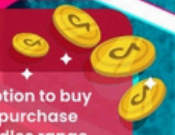
While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more 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.

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.

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 £9.99 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.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS



With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (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.

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.

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 are 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.

