

## News and Events

Friday 25th November

Dear Parents/Carers,



Today in our Celebration Collective Worship we celebrated Elsie (Voyagers) for the value of wisdom, Lois (Discoverers) for the value of wisdom, Stanley (Explorers) for the value of wisdom and Oliver (Shooting Stars) for the value of koinonia.

Congratulations to them all.

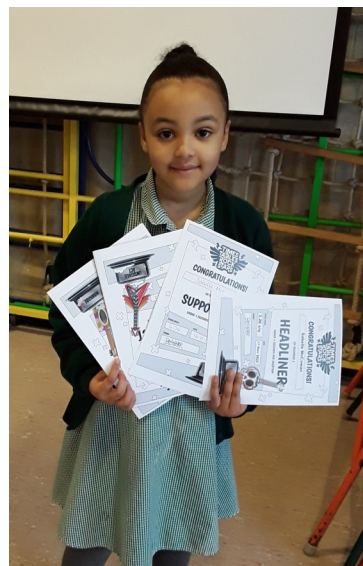


More superb TT Rock Stars today. Lexie is a breakthrough Artist, Skye went from Garage Rocker through Busker and Gigger to Unsigned Act, Brie is a Support Act and George went from Busker to Gigger, Unsigned Act and to up Breakthrough Artist.



Sabelle has been awarded 8 Rock Star levels. She has gone all the way from Wannabe to Headliner.

Amazing work  
Sabelle!



## Important dates for your diary

27th November – Christingle Service at St Johns

29th Nov to 3rd Dec - St James' Church Christmas Tree Festival. Open daily 1000 –1700 (16:00 on Saturday) We have a tree on display.

2nd December—School disco

5th December — Y3/4 football tournament

## Attendance

Highest attendance:

Discoverers 98%

Lost learning: 65 hours



@WestAshtonCofE



[West Ashton C of E Primary School | Facebook](#)

We are on Facebook! Please like our page.

## Reminders

1st Thursday of the month – Pre-loved school uniform for sale in the library  
The library is open after school on Tues and Fri.

We are heading rapidly towards the busiest few weeks of the school year. There is a lot going on!

- Christingle Service on Sunday at 4pm in the Church—it would be lovely to see you all there.
- Our Christmas Tree will be on display in St James' next week (Tuesday to Saturday) with stars celebrating our aspirations for our futures from every child.
- Next Friday (2nd) is the school disco—please remember to buy tickets in advance.
- Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools—bags can be brought into school on 5th for collection. We have extra bags if needed.
- Panto — please see ParentMail to make a contribution towards this.





Thank you to our wonderful litter pickers who did a fantastic job last week.

### **News from the classes:**

**Shooting Stars:** Rhiannon has had a go at teaching phonics! She made a fabulous teacher. We have decorated stars for St James' Church and we have learnt about birthday celebrations around the world.

**Explorers:** This week we watched an author read a story to us about a rabbit with very long ears called Rabunzel. We also talked about pets in science and labelled different parts of their bodies. In history we wrote a story about a trip to the beach in the 1950s, we looked at pictures of people riding donkeys and watching Punch and Judy to help us. William and Luca

**Discoverers:** In English we have been creating metaphors and personification in our rivers poetry. We looked at changes of state in science and made condensation with ice on cling film, saw water vapour condense on a cold surface and watched salt react with ice. These are all reversible changes. In geography we looked at rivers around the world and their uses and how their uses have changed over time. Archie and Brie

**Voyagers:** Our drafted newspaper articles are now needing editing before we publish them. We've continued to use body percussion to perform alongside classical music. We have been coding in computing by creating routes and instructions for Beebots to follow to complete a course. Thalía and Abigail

Hope to see many of you on Sunday.

Best wishes,

Alex Blake-Thwaite



## 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-16 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.

#### DAINGEROUS 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 birthdate.

#### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend on average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

#### 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

## National Online Safety Update

# Christingle Service



All families and friends are invited to experience the magic of the candlelit Christingle Service at West Ashton Church on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 4 p.m.

This short service is aimed at children of all ages and begins our Advent celebrations. The service also reminds us of the invaluable work that the Children's Society do for vulnerable children. West Ashton Church supports the work of the Children's Society in helping young people and their families. By joining our celebration you too can make a difference.

St John's, West Ashton



WEST ASHTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Raise funds by collecting reusable clothes

**RAGS 2 RICHES**  
Schools Clubs Groups



**WE ACCEPT CLEAN,  
GOOD QUALITY, DRY,  
REUSABLE CLOTHING**

- ✓ Adults, Childrens & Babies Clothing
- ✓ Jewellery and Accessories
- ✓ Paired Shoes and Footwear
- ✓ Belts and Handbags

A full list of reusable items is listed on our website  
[www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk](http://www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk)

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT**

POOR QUALITY ITEMS SUCH AS  
DIRTY, WET, RIPPED OR SOILED  
CLOTHES.  
PILLOWS, DUVETS, CURTAINS,  
BOOKS CDs OR ANY UNIFORM

If you are unsure what to put in the bags  
**STOP AND THINK**  
**WOULD YOU WEAR IT?**

Please use the clothing bag provided.  
You can also use any additional bag if required.

Collection Date:  
**Monday 5th December**

Please remember - NO UNIFORM

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR  
SCHOOL**

**WE ARE HOSTING A:**

## **Clothing Collection**

with Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools

Do you have clothes in your wardrobe that you no longer wear, maybe last year's fashions, or that buy that was too good to leave but it's not really you after all?

**Please help us fundraise by donating your good quality unwanted, re-useable (clean, dry and wearable) clothes and accessories**

(please pair and tie shoes together)

**Your donations become affordable clothing in other countries**

so please do not send poor quality, dirty or wet items, and no duvets, pillows, curtains, books, CDs or bric-a-brac.


We truly appreciate your support in helping raise additional funds for our school for the benefit of our children.

There's no better feeling than knowing you raised funds, helped the economy, the environment, and somebody on the other side of the world – and all by donating some clothes.

**Please bring your donations to school:**

**On**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December**



**shout**  
**85258**  
here for you 24/7

**Feeling  
worried about  
the increased  
cost of living?**

**Need to  
talk?**

**There's no shame in reaching out.**  
**Text WILTS to 85258**  
**for free and confidential support**

Texting the word 'WILTS' to 85258  
is anonymous and will not show up on your phone bill.  
For more information, visit [giveusashout.org](https://giveusashout.org)

Working in partnership with  
**Wiltshire Council**



# Kids Inflatables Christmas Party

14 DEC 2022

5:00PM - 7:00PM

THE CIVIC, TROWBRIDGE

TICKETS £8.50

[WWW.THECIVICTROWBRIDGE.CO.UK](http://WWW.THECIVICTROWBRIDGE.CO.UK)



**active**  
trowbridge







All proceeds to church funds

**Friday 2 December  
at 7.30pm**

An evening of traditional and popular  
Christmas songs and singalong with  
The Wiltshire Council Singers

# CHRISTMAS IS COMING

**Tickets £6 under 12s free**

Includes welcome mulled  
wine and mince pie

**St John's Church,  
West Ashton, BA14 6AT**



**Tickets From: Jo Watkins 01225 753196 / Jean Robertson 01225 760368**



**St John's Parish Church, West Ashton**  
**Warmly Invite You To Rejoice In The  
Following Christmas Services**

*Experience the magic of the candlelit  
**Christingle Service***

**Sunday, 27 November, 2022 at 4.00pm**

*Commemorate Our Saviour's Birth and Join Us For  
**St John's Carols & Readings***

**Sunday, 18 December, 2022 at 10.30am**

*Celebrate Christmas Eve Communion*  
**Saturday, 24 December, 2022 at 3.00pm**

*The Miracle Birth Of Jesus –  
**Christmas Day***

**Sunday, 25 December, 2022 at 10.30am**

**A Family Service At St Thomas' Church, Trowbridge**



In aid of St Mary's preservation Trust

**a musical evening with  
STEEPLE ROCKS  
CHOIR**

**and  
special guests:**

**Guinea Lane Saxophone Quartet  
Marcus Sealy - organist**



**Saturday 3rd December 7.30pm**

tickets: £10

available from Steeple Ashton village shop  
choir members or

01380 871890

(wine/soft drinks available)

at ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STEEPLE ASHTON