



St Ippolyts CE (Aided) Primary School

Ashbrook Lane, St Ippolyts, Herts, SG4 7PB Tel 01462 432080 admin@stipps.herts.sch.uk

# NEWSLETTER



Issue 25: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023



Over the last week, all the classes have been carrying out experiments and investigations on the theme of climate change for this year's Science Week. For example, sorting recyclable materials, finding out which washing powder is the most sustainable and measuring the impact of ice caps melting on sea levels.



## Congratulations!

We are thrilled to tell you that Miss Ingle's baby girl arrived safely on Saturday morning. Mum and baby are doing well, and we send Miss Ingle and her family lots of love and congratulations.

# Class 3 Assembly date change

The class 3 assembly date has been changed to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 9.15am. Apologies for any inconvenience that may be caused by the date change.

## Outstanding payments for dinner money

Please ensure that all dinner money accounts are cleared by the end of term, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you are having trouble clearing the debt, please talk to Mrs Stansbie in the office as soon as possible. Once a dinner money debt reaches a certain point, we are unfortunately unable to provide further school meals until payment is made. In these circumstances we would ask you to provide a packed lunch for your child. Please do talk to us in confidence if you are experiencing financial hardship.

Years 3-6: If you think you might be eligible for free school meals, visit

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

## Class arrangements for next year

During the parent consultations this week, some parents have been asking what the class arrangements will be next year. We are not able to give you an answer on this as it will not be finalised until well into the summer term and depends very much on how many new children are admitted into Reception from September.

One of the key questions parents often have is around whether children will move into the next class or not. I know I explain this at length on guided tours for new parents, but I also know it can be tricky to understand how it works!

Where year groups are split, we make the decision based on each individual child's needs taking into consideration a blend of factors such as age, academic performance, emotional maturity, behaviour, confidence and self-help skills.

We do not use the terms 'moving up' or 'staying down' because regardless of which classroom a child is in, they still cover the curriculum for their year group. Our teachers are really skilled at delivering the objectives for two year groups simultaneously in the mixed classes.

When you receive your child's report in July, this will contain a letter informing you of the teachers for each class, and which class your child has been allocated to.



# Easter service

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, the whole school will be going over to church for our Easter service.

Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents /carers to this service. Our school has grown in size over recent years, and we no longer have any spare seating in the church to enable us to invite additional people – we now fill every seat in the church!

We will, however, take some photographs to share with you.



## Cake Sale fundraiser

Emily in Class 3 sponsors a Guide Dog puppy and is raising money to support the work of this amazing charity.

Next Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, Emily is holding a cake sale outside school at hometime, cakes will be 50p. Do pop along and support her if you can!

## Medical and dental appointments

We are very grateful for parents trying to make dental and medical appointments outside of the school day; however, we do know that this can be challenging, and you don't always get much choice!

When you email in to let us know of an appointment, please could you remember to include evidence of the appointment – for example a photo of an appointment card/letter, screenshot of a text confirmation etc. Thank you!



# SUMMER SCHOOL UNIFORM AFTER EASTER

**After the Easter holidays we change to summer uniform:**

white and blue **checked** dress (pale blue, not navy) *culottes style permitted, but not short 'hot-pants'*

**white** socks

sun hat/cap

**OR**

grey shorts

white shirt

school tie

navy V-neck jumper, **not** sweatshirts

grey socks

sun hat/cap

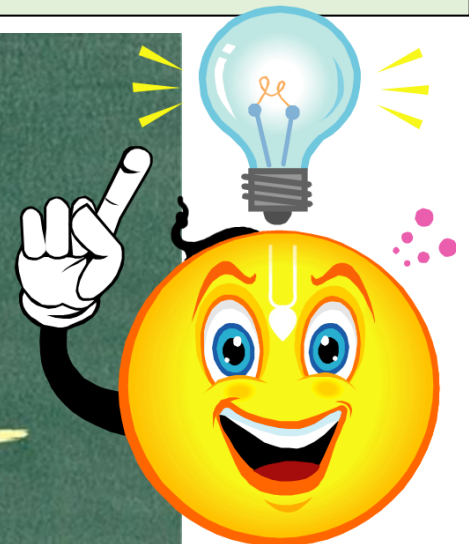


Closed toe sandals are permitted in summer.

***School fleeces revert to being outdoor wear only after Easter***

During the summer months, we may have additional PE sessions as we prepare for sports day so it is important that your child has PE kit in school every day.

**Summer PE kit is shorts/t-shirts, not long trousers/joggers.**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**AT THE BIRD IN HAND, GOSMORE**

**£15 – INCLUDES QUIZ ENTRY AND A CURRY**

# IMPORTANT!



## SAFE GAMING

# WARNING!

Due to the nature of the game and the age restrictions, GTA includes content that is inappropriate for anyone under the age of 18, including sex, nudity, violence, profane language, and substance abuse. These are the main components that make up the game - you have to do certain things and witness certain things in order to move on in the game. Exposing your child to this type of content could affect their morals and understanding of right and wrong. Additionally, your child could become desensitised to similar situations, reinforcing the fact they they would find it hard to differentiate between right/wrong and good/bad.

## Gaming concerns

Accessing material that is not age appropriate can be very damaging for children, exposing them to sometimes violent, explicit content and offensive language. This can negatively affect their behaviour, moods, ability to concentrate at school and their sleep patterns. Not only can it impact the child themselves, but also their relationships with other children, especially through inappropriate online messaging and bad language which can spill into school life.

**We are very concerned about the number of children who tell us that they are playing 18+ rated games at home, specifically Grand Theft Auto. We are seeing an increase in children using swear words and making sexual remarks, both of which are clearly unacceptable on a primary school playground.**

On the school website, there is a section dedicated to online safety, with lots of useful guides for parents about a wide range of games, apps and social media:  
<https://www.stipps.herts.sch.uk/online-safety/>

However, we have included GTA into this week's newsletter since this is the one causing the most significant concerns (the quality is better on the website version!)

## Tik Tok concerns

In a similar vein to the game mentioned above, we have similar concerns around children's use of Tik Tok. There is a lot of content on Tik Tok that is inappropriate for children (it has a 12+ rating) and again, this is coming into school and causing problems.

**If your child has a device, please make sure you regularly check what they are using it to access.**





AGE RESTRICTION  
**18+**

# What parents need to know about **GRAND THEFT AUTO (GTA)**

**grand  
theft  
auto**

Grand Theft Auto is an action-adventure video game series where players control criminals and wreak havoc in order to complete missions and progress through the game. During the early stages of the game, it solely focuses on completing missions to go up a level. However, as the game grew more popular the makers of GTA decided to introduce a narrative to each edition of the game. The aim of this was to increase user engagement, making gamers believe that they were not just playing as the character, but they became the character. Grand Theft Auto is accessible on a number of devices including: PlayStation and Xbox, desktop computers, PSP, Nintendo DS, and Mobile.



## Top Tips for Parents

### THE RISK - PLAYING WITH STRANGERS

When buying GTA V you automatically have access to Grand Theft Auto Online, a version of the game that allows players to play online. They can play alone, invite players to a game, or be involved in public 'sessions' where people will be picked at random to play. When you first load into a game you are automatically placed into an open lobby, meaning you play with random people. The 'social club' is GTA's very own social platform where users can bet money, share in-game photographs (which users can like and comment on), and even message other users directly.

#### What parents can do

To prevent your child playing with strangers on the game, you can change the settings to ensure they only play with their approved friends list. Upon signing up to the 'social club', it automatically sets a player's visibility settings to 'everyone', meaning their name and profile information is made public. Parents can alter this by changing the visibility settings to 'only me'.

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### THE RISK - ONLINE HACKERS

Hackers can make money by helping users cheat in the game. They can do a number of inappropriate things, including killing people, stealing weapons, spawning money into the game, and even raping other characters. Spawning money tends to be a gamer's most popular choice, being able to buy \$100,000,000,000 (of in-game currency) for as little as five US dollars.

#### What parents can do

Actively monitor your child's online activity. These websites are very easy to find, meaning children and young people can easily navigate their way to these websites and pay for hackers. Not only is this an illegal activity, but you have the risk of giving your personal information to someone who may misuse it.

### THE RISK - ADDICTION

Addiction is a risk with any game. Game developers use persuasive design techniques to force users to invest their time, and often money, in a game. Within GTA, your character is able to progress through the game for completing missions within a certain time frame, encouraging children to keep returning to the game. Gaming addiction is now a recognised health condition and the side effects are concerning, including sleep deprivation, decreased attention span and erratic emotional behaviour.

#### What parents can do

There are a number of things you can do if you are concerned about your child's screen time, including setting time limits within the home, especially during meal times and before bedtime. Talk to your child and ask why they are spending so much time on the game, and encourage healthy alternatives such as outdoor activities and spending quality time with friends and family.

### THE RISK - LIVE CHAT

When playing GTA online, players have the option to use a microphone to broadcast their voice live to other players involved in the 'session'. These live voice chats are not moderated, meaning anything could be said, including inappropriate language, as well as verbal forms of bullying.

#### What parents can do

Talk openly with your child about not giving away personal information. Also remind them that conversations can be recorded, which could damage their online reputation. Depending on the device/platform, there will be ways to mute conversations. Make yourself aware of the device's/platform's individual settings and ensure that your child knows how to block and report.

### THE RISK - MICROTRANSACTIONS

By completing missions and partaking in certain activities you earn in-game currency. This allows you to buy things such as prostitutes, vehicles, weapons, ammo, new outfits, cars, apartments and more. However, the items that are available to buy often have a high price that require a lot of game time, meaning the items are pretty unrealistic to buy.

#### What parents can do

If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest purchasing a pre-paid gift card for your child. These can be purchased in specific amounts which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit or debit card to be used with their account.

#### SOURCES:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2103188/parentalguide>  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gaming/news/grand-theft-auto-v-has-made-money-film-history/>  
<http://www.techaddiction.ca/addiction-to-video-games.html>



**National  
Online  
Safety**

A whole school community approach to online safety

**www.nationalonlinesafety.com**

Email us at [hello@nationalonlinesafety.com](mailto:hello@nationalonlinesafety.com) or call us on 0800 368 8061





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.



## 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 16s' 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 16s. 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.

### 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 Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



SOURCES: [www.tiktok.com](http://www.tiktok.com)



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

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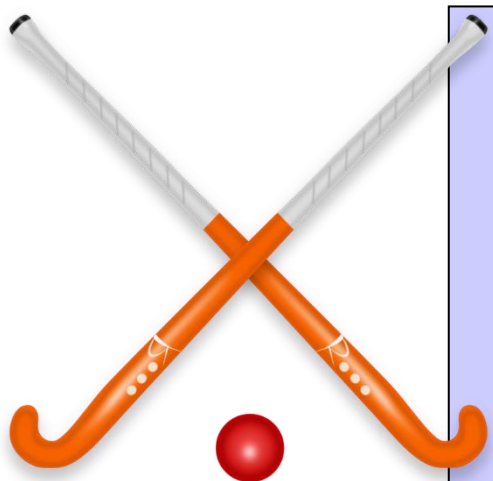




# SPORTS

## Girls Football

A big well done to the girls football team - they came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the SSFT tournament this week. Congratulations!



## Blueharts Hockey

Blueharts U10 Boys won the county hockey finals at Haileybury at the weekend, winning all their games! Half the team are in Class 5: Rufus, Isaac, Lawrence, Barnaby & Elliot. They will play in the regional round next month. Congratulations!

## County Winners!

Our Rapid Fire Cricket team won the county finals this week - what an amazing achievement, congratulations!





This week's article from our Pupil Journalists, Annie & Lily

## SPRING

Springtime is coming soon,  
And it's the time of year that flowers bloom.  
Everyone is happy,  
Out in the sun.

Come on, let's have some fun!  
Laughing and playing outside,  
Chatting down by the riverside.

The birds tweeting their sweet spring tunes,  
The whistle in the trees is so lovely and smooth.

Baby bunnies hopping about,  
There is no doubt that spring is about!



Last Friday it was Red Nose Day! Everyone was invited to wear any red clothing; so many people came to school in red socks, jumpers, a funny hairstyle and more! In exchange, children had to bring a small amount of money which was donated to Comic Relief. We are pleased to announce that we raised £280; thank you everyone for your contributions!

# RED NOSE DAY

