

# School News

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been another busy week of learning for the children and the atmosphere around the school continues to be positive as we look to start the new year in the best possible way!

### Parent/Carer curriculum guides for the Spring term

At the end of last term, you should have received an email containing information about your child's learning for this Spring term. This document outlines the exciting areas of learning to be studied and useful resources to support your child's learning at home. This document can also be found on our school website under the Parent tab at the top of the website:



### Weather

We continue to have very cold weather and as such it is important that the children are wearing warm coats, vests, hats, gloves, and scarves to school. We wouldn't want any children missing out on fresh airtime outside because they are too cold!



### New Beginnings

This week in our assembly we spoke to the children about 'new beginnings' and how often at the start of the year adults make new years resolutions. We spoke to the children about the kind of things that people may do such as trying to be healthier, read more books, spend more time with family or drink more water to stay hydrated. The children enjoyed the assembly and may well talk to you about some of the positive things they would like to do at the start of 2025.



We wish you and your family a relaxing weekend ahead.

The Leadership Team

# *Important Information*

If your child has an injury and has been given medical advice that we need to follow as a school, please bring them to the school office for 8.15am on their first day back at school following the injury so that we can complete a risk assessment. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Absence**

If your child is too ill to attend school, this must be reported to us by no later than **9.00am**. Please telephone the school, press one and leave a message on the voicemail box stating your child's full name, class, the reason for absence and when we can expect them to return to school (if known).

Home Visits will be carried out for any child that is absent for 3 or more school days without reason.

# We need you...



Please label all children's school uniform. This helps us return lost property to the correct child and prevents parents from having to replace missing uniform as often. This is particularly important as the weather is getting colder and children are beginning to wear jumpers/cardigans to school.

We are missing a significant number of reading books. If you have any left at home (whatever condition) from last academic year, please return them.  
Thank you

**Please be reminded that pupils should not be wearing jewellery to school. Children with pierced ears may wear small stud earrings but hoops are not permitted.  
Thank you for your support**

Year 1 need cereal boxes for their work on sculptures. If you have any that you are happy to donate, please pass them to the Year 1 teachers.  
Thank You

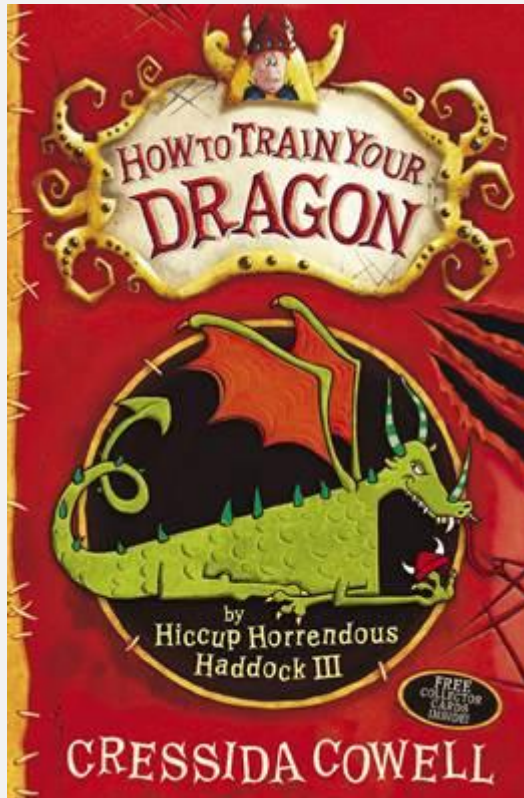
We are continually updating our OPAL resources and would gladly accept donations of:

- Tennis balls
- Footballs
- Bats
- Dressing up clothes
- Colouring books
- Crayons
- Big cars
- Lego



# Recommended Reads

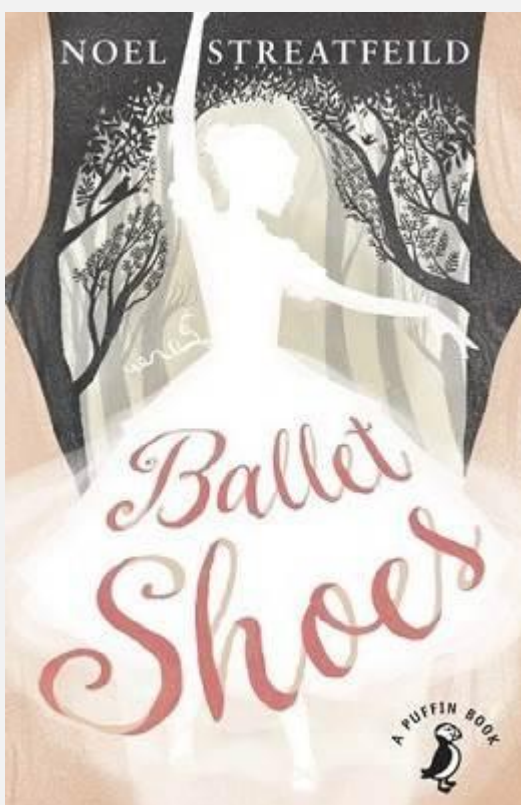
Each week we will be recommending great books that you can share with your children.



## How to Train Your Dragon

**Author:** Cressida Cowell

Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III was an incredible sword-fighter, dragon-whisperer and the greatest Viking hero who ever lived. But he wasn't always like that - in fact, in the beginning, Hiccup wasn't fierce, brave or heroic at all. But the arrival of the Seadragonus Giganticus Maximus offers the chance for Hiccup to shine. The ferocious bravado of the other Vikings proves useless, and Hiccup is called upon to save them by using his brains rather than his brawn. Can he defeat the dragon and save the Viking tribe from certain death?



## Ballet Shoes

**Author:** Noel Streatfeild

Pauline, Petrova and Posy are orphans adopted by eccentric fossil collector and explorer Gum ('Great Uncle Matthew'). Leaving them in the care of his niece Sylvia, and Nana, her old nurse, at his London home on the Cromwell Road, Gum goes off to continue his exploring, saying he'll be back in five years time. But after five years come and go, and there is no sign of Gum, Sylvia's money begins to run out.



# SEND in Focus

## THURROCK SEND FAMILY FORUM 2025 SCHEDULE



[Hello@thurrocksendfamilyforum.org](mailto:Hello@thurrocksendfamilyforum.org)

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>MARCH</b>
Visually impaired Parental mental health	Epilepsy Eating Disorder	Neurodivergent & Downsyndrome event
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE</b>
Thurrock strategy launch Autism & Stutters Health & Safety at work National pet month	Share your story Maternal mental health Deaf awareness Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA)	Volunteers Carers week Rare chromosome & Gene disorder
<b>JULY</b>	<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
	Youth day Never give up day Summer event	Suicide Prevention Youth Mental Health
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>DECEMBER</b>
Black History Month ADHD Awareness Dyslexia	Men's Mental Health	Christmas event



# SEND in Focus

## JANUARY FOCUS

January 4th was World Braille Day, a time to celebrate and raise awareness of the visually impaired community. Let's continue the conversation by joining our informal session, where we'll showcase resources and opportunities available in Essex. This is your chance to share feedback on the services you need in a supportive and inclusive space. Together, we can shine a light on accessibility and inclusion for everyone!



**Date&time-29/01/25**

**10-12pm**

**Location-Block A**

**Maple park**

**St Andrews way**

**Stanford le hope**

**SS17 0FL**

### PARENTAL MENTAL HEALTH



We will also be addressing the critical issues surrounding parental mental health and the unique challenges faced by SEND parents and caregivers. If you'd like to share your thoughts, concerns, or ask any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

[hello@thurrocksendfamilyforum.org](mailto:hello@thurrocksendfamilyforum.org).

# Diary Dates

Tuesday 11th February 2025	Y6 height & weight checks
Friday 14th February 2025	Last day of Term (Non-Uniform day)
Monday 17th February 2025- Friday 21st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24th February 2025	Pupils back to school (NO clubs this week)
Thursday 3rd April 2024	Last day of Term (Non-Uniform day)
Friday 4th April 2025	Non-Pupil Day
7th April 2025 – 18th April 2025	Easter Holidays
Monday 21st April 2025	Bank Holiday – no school for pupils
Tuesday 22nd April 2025	Pupils back to school (NO clubs this week)
Monday 5th May 2025	Bank Holiday – no school for pupils
Monday 12th May 2025- Thursday 15th May 2025	Year 6 SATS week
Friday 23rd May 2025	Last day of Term (Non-Uniform Day)
Monday 26th May 2025-Friday 30th May 2025	Half Term
Monday 2nd June 2025	Pupils back to school (Clubs are ON this week)
Friday 18th July 2025	Last day of the academic year for pupils (Non-Uniform day)
Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025	INSET Days (no school for pupils)

# Do you need support?

## East Tilbury Primary Schools Online Pastoral Support.

We are very excited to launch our new Pastoral service to our school community. From today you can access support by completing a simple and quick online form.

We have been working hard over the last few months to set up extra support for our families which is very much needed at this challenging time. If you require support, then please do not hesitate to reach out. We are hoping this service will be a fantastic addition to the support we can provide for our school community. Please reach out if you need anything, we are always here to offer you support.

To make the process simple we have created a QR Code (at the top of the poster) which you can just scan, and this will take you directly to the form.

## WE CAN HELP WITH

- Food
- School Uniform
- Hygiene Products
- Wellbeing

## FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

[www.easttilburyprimary.thurrock.sch.uk](http://www.easttilburyprimary.thurrock.sch.uk)



# Class News

## Reception

This week in reception we have been reading 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson. We have been describing how worms move and what they look like. We enjoyed wriggling around the classroom. In maths we have been discussing the seasons, and which season we like best. We had a vote, and winter and summer were both the favourites. We have looked at the months of the year, days of the week and what we do on different days at school and out of school. We found out that there are lots of different clubs children attend after school, the most common being swimming.

In topic we have been discussing different beliefs and celebrations. We discussed some of the celebrations that members of our classes enjoy.



## Year One

Another busy week for year one! We have really been enjoying watching the changes in the weather each day and recording these on charts in our role play areas, as well as broadcasting from our weather stations!

In RE, we have been identifying objects that Christians use for worship. We discussed the words 'sacred', 'worship' and 'object'. We looked at a cross, a candle and the Bible and spoke about objects that are sacred to Christians and how they use these to worship God.

In Science, we explored the characteristics of various animals and observed their similarities and differences. We then applied this understanding to compare the features of different animal groups, including birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. We sang If You're Happy and You Know It in Music, which was lots of fun.

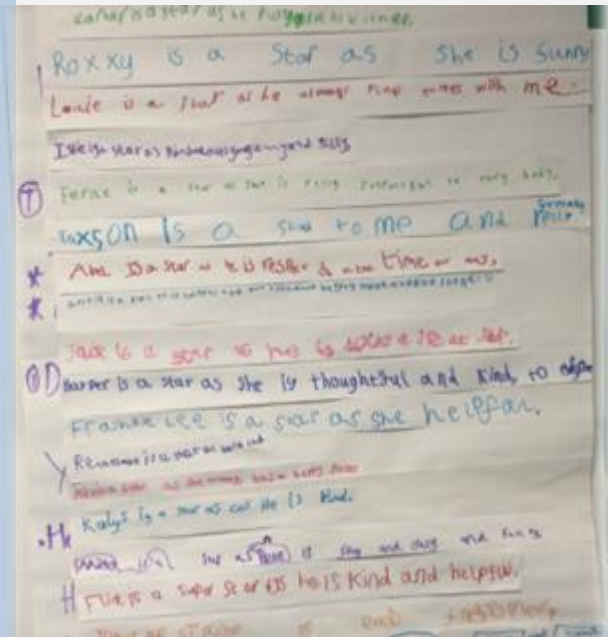
# Class News

## Year Two

This week in year 2, we continued with our learning about the book 'Stardust'. We discussed the importance of empathy and how the author shows this trait within the characters of the story. As a class, we created a collaborative class poem celebrating our star qualities.

In maths this week, we have been focusing on durations of time, thinking carefully about events that could take place in the morning, afternoon and evening.

In art we've had great fun exploring textures using a range of objects such as forks, cotton wool, sponges and bubble wrap. The children mixed their own colours and used the materials to represent textures.



## Year Three

During our PE lessons this week, we practiced a range of balances and rolls in gymnastics and in our basketball lesson we learned about a 'triple treat' stance and dribbled the ball around the cones with control.

We have continued to learn about measurements this week and used tape measures to measure objects in the classroom and around the school. We have been converting cm into mm and ordered measurements in order from shortest to longest. We have also enjoyed working out the perimeter of 2D shapes.

We have been exploring China Landscapes to help us with our narrative in English. This has helped us with our sentence stacking lessons. We are enjoying reading 'The Magic Paintbrush' written by Julia Donaldson.

Can we please ask for you to bring in some cereal or cardboard boxes for our art lesson next week.

# Class News

## *Year Four*

**Maths – Exploring Fractions** This week, we've been delving into fractions and discovering how they can be represented in different ways. Using visual aids and real-world examples, the children are developing a deeper understanding of how fractions fit into everyday life.

**English – Sentence Stacking with Nikola Tesla** Our English lessons have been buzzing with creativity as we explore the life of Nikola Tesla through biography writing. We've been focusing on "sentence stacking," where the children construct powerful, descriptive sentences to bring Tesla's remarkable story to life. It's wonderful to see their writing skills flourish as they learn to use facts and vivid language to engage their readers.

**Computing – Creating Shapes with Turtle Academy** In Computing, we've been harnessing our coding skills with Turtle Academy. The children are learning to use simple commands to create geometric shapes on the screen. This activity combines logical thinking with creativity and gives them a great foundation in programming concepts. The website is on Google Classroom for your children to access at home!

**Dance – Volcanic Eruption Dance: Evacuation Scene** Our Volcanic Eruption dance project has reached an exhilarating stage as we work on depicting an evacuation scene. The children are learning to use movement and expression to convey urgency and emotion. This creative journey is helping them develop their storytelling skills through dance.

**Art – Exploring Shades and Tints** In Art, we've been experimenting with mixing colours to create shades and tints. The children are learning how adding white or black to a base colour can transform it in subtle and striking ways.

## *Year Five*

This week in maths, we focused on measuring perimeter and area. We calculated the perimeter of various shapes using addition, while for area, we multiplied lengths and widths, remembering to use squared units. We even counted squares on a golf course to estimate its area, connecting our learning to real-life situations.

In art, we began our unit on retrofuturism, developing skills in evaluating images and experimenting with different drawing processes. We used our sketchbooks to practice line, tone, shape, and texture, making thoughtful artist decisions.

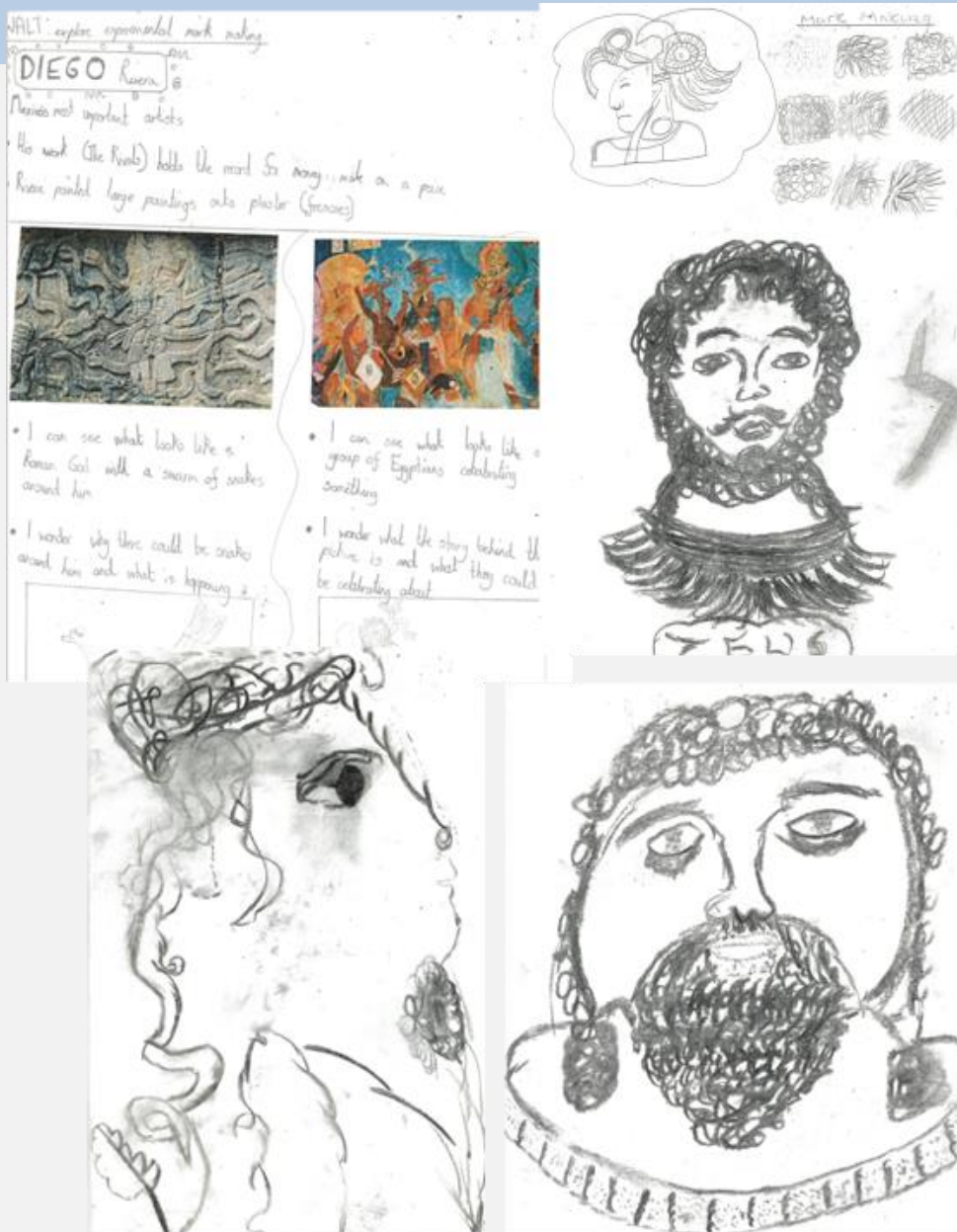
Our PSHE discussions centred on environmental conservation, where we thoughtfully considered various factors, we believe are most detrimental to our planet. A resounding consensus emerged in our class that every individual has a pivotal role in safeguarding the environment.

Subsequently, many of us embarked on creating engaging PowerPoint presentations to articulate our views, effectively harnessing the computing skills we have cultivated in previous lessons.

# Class News

## Year Six

This week in Year 6, we have completed our first full week of 2025! This week we have explored the Maya-inspired artwork of Diego Rivera's, and followed in his footsteps to apply his Maya style to Ancient Greek pieces of art. This enabled pupils the opportunity to use charcoal, and reuse mark making techniques to bring their masterpieces to life. Elsewhere, we continued to investigate the circulatory system and the incredible jobs our bodies do every second of every day we spend in this world. In PE, we have more opportunity for expression in dance and gymnastics, which our pupils have flourished in. We look forward to what the coming weeks bring.





# Reach for the Stars



Our 'Stars of the Week' are the children that have gone over and above in their efforts. We are very proud of them for their achievements and thought they deserved an extra-special mention!

RBG	Joziah	For being kind and helpful.
RES	George	For working really hard on his phonics and reading.
RFK	Adam	For amazing engagement during phonics and sharing his confident reading of CVC words.
1BA	Freya	For her amazing effort with her writing this week.
1EC	Elham	For her excellent weather report.
1LD	Dolcie	For always trying her best and being kind.
2RM	Frankie-Lee	For her amazing independent writing this week.
2CH	Ivy	For her brilliant effort with her writing.
2MF	Amina	For being a lovely friend. Also, for showing confidence and hard work in learning.
2BG	Harper-Lou	For her amazing effort and attitude in her learning this week.
3ML	Abdalla	For his concentration and enthusiasm in his learning.
3RS	Vinnie	For his great effort and attitude to learning this week.
3SG	Arthur P	For always being a kind and supportive friend, encouraging others to do their best.
3VP	Rayah TK	For her hard work and effort in English.
4CP	Betsy	For an amazing fact file created for her homework about Princess Diana.
4KC	Amerleigh- Rae G-W	For showing resilience in all lessons and setting a good example to others.
4MR	Ruby H	For showing self-responsibility in her learning and having positive attitude.
5NM	Marko	For his improved punctuality and his positive attitude to learning.
5SA	Archie F	For performing with confidence and sharing his passion for the violin.
5TH	Louise	For her engaging ideas in English lessons.
6AB	Isabelle C	For positive engagement in all lessons.
6LC	Emily F	For adapting to change and completing all tasks.
6NB	Marnie B	For her outstanding work, a testament to her hard work and dedication.



# Maths Marvels



All pupils at East Tilbury Primary have logins for Times Tables Rockstars and are able to log on at home to practice their times tables.

**13th January - 17 January 2025**

1LD

27

1BA

12

1FK

0

1EC

0

**13th January - 17 January 2025**

2MF

23

2SBG

4

2CH

2

**13th January - 17 January 2025**

3SG

213

3RS

172

3ML

46

3VP

35

**13th January - 17 January 2025**

4CP

146

4KC

128

4MR

16

**13th January - 17 January 2025**

5NM

608

5TH

54

5SA

4

**13th January - 17 January 2025**

6LC

947

6NB

817

6AB

316

# 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.

## 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.

### 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.



### 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.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

# BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

*this winter*



Now that the clocks have gone back and it's getting darker earlier on, it's more important than ever to make sure you can be seen when you're out and about near roads.

There are loads of ways to be seen and stay safer  
- so check over the page for some top tips!

# 5 top tips on how to **BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN**

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at [www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad](http://www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad)

**Be Bright,  
Be Seen**

**THINK**

## Keep in Touch



Our school office is open to receive calls between 8:30am and 3pm.

Tel: 01375 846181

Email: [office.etp@osborne.coop](mailto:office.etp@osborne.coop)

East Tilbury Primary School

Princess Margaret Road  
East Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8SB



We are also regularly updating our Facebook page and Twitter feed. Log on and have a look!



Twitter:  
[@EastTPrimary](https://twitter.com/EastTPrimary)



At East Tilbury Primary School our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are:

- Mrs Dawson

Due to the size of the school, we have the following designated staff who can deputise in the Headteacher's absence:

- Mr Gowland
- Mrs Jarvis
- Mrs Mylam
- Mrs Allen
- Mrs Sheridan

Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child? You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

**Thurrock MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding hub), Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL, Tel: 01375 652802. Emergency Duty Team (for out of hours) 01375 372468. · Police Child Abuse Investigation Team 01277 266822 or call 999 if you are concerned a child needs immediate protection. · Childline 0800 11 11 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) · NSPCC 0808 800 5000 [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk); [www.facebook.com/nspcc](https://www.facebook.com/nspcc)**



**Tues 14:00-16:00:** St. Mary's Church hall, St. Mary's Church, Dock Rd, Grays, RM17 6EX.

**Tues 11:00-13:00:** St. John the Baptist Church, Tilbury, Dock Road, Tilbury, RM18 7PP

**Weds 11:00-13:00:** Gateway People's Centre, High Street, Stanford Le Hope, Essex, SS17 0EY

**Weds 13:00 -14:30:** Sockets Heath Baptist Church, Premier Avenue, Grays, RM16 2SB

**Thurs 11:00-13:00:** St. Francis Centre, Somerset Rd, Linford, SS17 0QA

**Thurs 11:00-13:00:** All Saints Church of England, Foyle Drive, Sth Ockendon, RM15 5HF

**Fri 10:12:00:** St. Stephen's Church of England, London Rd, Purfleet, RM19 1QD

**Sat 09:30-11:30:** Emmanuel Church of England, Sleepers Farm Rd, Chadwell St. Mary, RM16 4TP

**Sat 10:00-12:00:** All Saints Church of England, Foyle Drive, Sth Ockendon, RM15 5HF

**Sat 10:00-12:00:** Christian Gates of Praise International Christian Centre, 79-83 London Rd, RM175YF

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024						
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	School Holiday
	Additional autumn half term (some Thurrock schools only)
	Inset days, schools closed to students
	Trust conference, schools closed to students
	Bank Holidays