

VPA Newsletter



4th March 2022

Message from Mrs Bailey

Welcome back to our Spring 2 half term! I trust that you had a lovely half term week and that you are now looking forward to the summer months which are only just around the corner? This half term is a short one and I know that the Easter holiday will be upon us before we know it! We have an awful lot to do this half term so do keep an eye on the newsletter for key dates and things you need to know. Events below are there for you, so you know what is coming up, and today's Key Stage Newsletters also tell you about your child's learning this half term. I hope that you find this useful but, as ever, if you have any questions just ask us...

This week's World Book Day event was coordinated by Miss Brook and Miss Thackeray, and it was a fantastic success – well done to both of them for their brilliant organisation: the children loved it. Thanks to all parents who attended sessions before and after school – it really is wonderful to see so many parents back in the building after another period of Covid imposed restrictions.

Our school attendance was up this week, suggesting we are indeed coming out of the other side of the pandemic. Fingers and toes crossed – I would LOVE to have just one day with 100% attendance in school before the summer.... It has been SO long since we had a day with everyone fit, well and in the building!

Have yourselves a wonderful weekend and we will see you all next week,

Mrs B.

Thank you, Danny Deeptown!

In January, we began working with artist Danny Deeptown to create a unique piece of artwork for us at Victoria – our very own Mona Lisa! During half term, our artwork was installed on the ramp and the result is rather phenomenal!



Landscaping & Planting

The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed we've had a huge amount of planting on site over the half term break, with a wide variety of shrubs planted from top to bottom. We are aiming to create a green space around our site so that, eventually, all of our fencing is invisible by virtue of our lustrous green borders – I can't wait to see it fully established and the dream become a reality in the coming years. Wellspring have entirely funded and coordinated this work for us and have more exciting plans for the outdoor area over the Easter break too: watch this space because it is going to be eye-popping!

KS1 Trip

Children in Year 1 and 2 will soon be going to Kirkstall Abbey for a fantastic day trip. Can all parents please make their payments for the trip as soon as possible? Any parents who may need to talk to us about a payment plan should do so as quickly as possible so that we can confirm your child's attendance on the trip. Thank you.



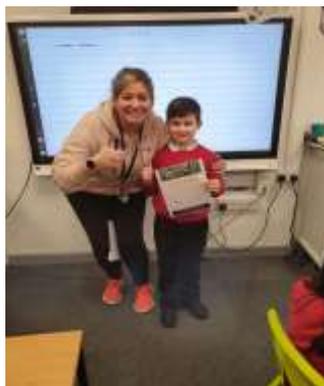
100% Attendance Winners Autumn 2 and Spring 1

At Victoria Primary Academy we have high expectations that all our pupils have good attendance. In return, there are many rewards up for grabs, including Do Jo points, Certificates, Scooters, Vue Cinema Vouchers and many more exciting treats! Here are the latest of our lucky 100% winners selected at random by our digital wheel of fortune!

Autumn 2 - Go Ape Vouchers went to Ella and Seth

Spring 1 - Vue Cinema vouchers were awarded to Raman and Hania

Well done to everyone who has made it their mission to come to school every day and congratulations on being lucky winners in our prize draws! Good luck to all for this half term!



. Red Nose Day !

Now that World Book Day is done and dusted, our next big event is Red Nose Day on the 18th March – just two weeks today!

To mark this event, we will be dressing up as our very own 'Superhero'!

Non-uniform day with a donation of £1.00 for Comic Relief on the day.

There will also be a bun sale where children can buy a bun/cake for 50p again all donations to Comic Relief.

Red Noses will be on sale in school. Soooo expect a message once they've arrived in school if you wish to buy one the cost will be £1.50



Reminder Of Dates For Your Diary

18.3.22 - Red Nose Day (for comic relief day)

23.03.22 - Y1 trip to Kirkstall Abbey

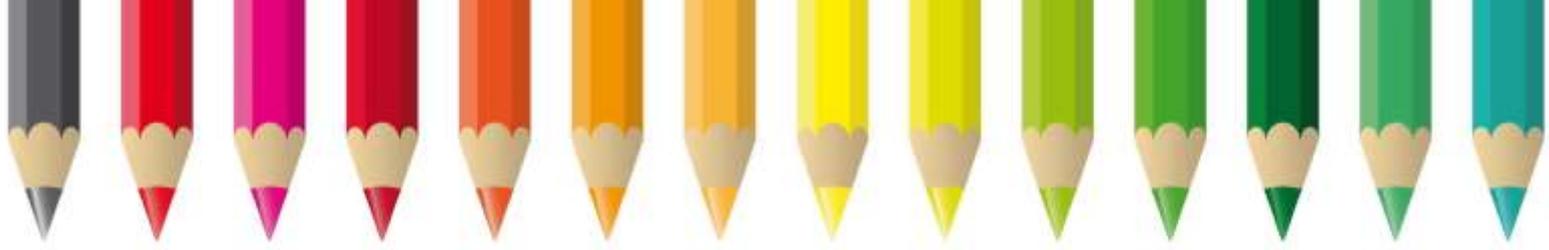
24.03.22- Mother's Day Coffee and cake event in the hall 9-10am

24.03.22 - Y2 trip to Kirkstall Abbey

28.03.22 - Easter Egg competition entries.

31.03.22 - Easter Disco

01.04.22 - Easter Egg competition winners



Our Booktastic World Book Day!

We had a fantastic fun filled day on Thursday, celebrating World Book Day. We kick started the event by welcoming parents into the hall for Books and Breakfast, where we shared Victoria's reading journey and how parents can best support their children with reading at home. We then had a great time during KS1 assembly looking at all the amazing costumes and sharing extracts from our Star Readers. We had a Harry Potter themed lunch and were then joined by Emma Barnes, a local author, in the afternoon. She shared her wonderful books with the children and top tips on becoming a writer. Our afterschool community Book Stop event was a HUGE success, and we would like to thank everyone who attended the event and our AMAZING choir who performed for us all.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

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 a billion users worldwide.

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 – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

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CENSORED

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 then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&H*!

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.

BEICAR

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 users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP SPENDING

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. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

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

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 PAIRING

'Family Pairing' 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. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

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

Parveen 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.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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