



ELMLEY NEWS

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

Dear Families,

We have all been enjoying the recent warmer weather in school. It has been wonderful to see the children making the most of the sunshine during outdoor learning and playtimes. We have such amazing grounds to explore. Our building work continues to progress well, and we are hopeful that the roof will be on very soon. This is an exciting stage in the project, and we appreciate your continued patience and support as improvements are made to our school.

The children are currently busy rehearsing for Oak Apple Day, which is such a wonderful tradition for Elmley. We are very much looking forward to celebrating together as a community and hope many of you will be able to join us.

We are also keen to re-establish our allotment area. In the coming weeks, we will be asking for volunteers to help us clear and prepare the space so any support would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, we are still looking to appoint someone to support our after-school club or breakfast club. If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please do share this opportunity.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Miss Harbron

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- A note from the Head of school
- May Planner
- Online Safety
- Oak Apple day
- Awards
- Attendance
- PTA
- Community



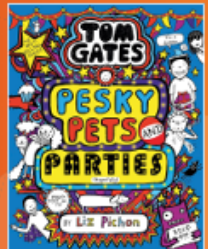


Every book you buy earns
FREE BOOKS
for our school*

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

AND FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE READ!



DATE:
6-11th May

TIME:
After school

LOCATION:
School Hall

GO ALL IN.
National Year of Reading 2020

MAY

4th May - Bank Holiday

6th May Reception Vision Screening

7th - Communion Service 2pm

7th Bredon Academy school to visit year 5 children

8th May PTA Family Quiz Postponed to June

20th Reception Cluster Multi skills

21st - OAK APPLE DAY (family picnic after at school)

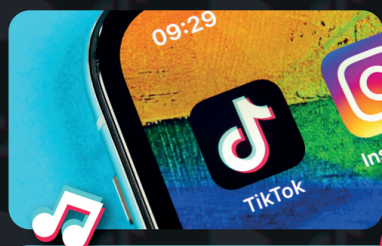
21st - Break up

22nd - TED DAY





TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user-created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or sound bites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However, there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok everyday, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.



INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC/TIKTOK FAME

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others' user videos on the app.



TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor Musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities – social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.



ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into a 45-minute visit.



IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents



TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report comments and messages within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



Meet our expert

Pete Badhis is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



SOURCES:

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.01.2020



Please Join us for



Oak Apple Day

Followed by a
family picnic on the
school field

Thursday 21st May 2026

Join us outside the Queens Pub in
Elmley Castle at 11am.

Parking- Please be made aware the
road will be closed from the school
to the pub/village square during the
event.

We would recommend using the
village hall for parking.

Save
THE
Date



WE WILL ANNOUNCE VERY
SOON ROLES, AND WHAT THE
CHILDREN WILL NEED TO
WEAR/BRING FOR THE DAY

AWARDS



1ST MAY 2026



ATTENDANCE

Attendance Ladder



CLASS	Attendance % Week ending 24 th April	Attendance % Week ending 1 st May
Whole School	96.01%	97.0%
Acorns	98.2%	96.5%
Oak	92.1%	98.6%
Apple	94.9%	95.3%
Elm	100%	98.1%

1ST MAY 2026



PTA

Elmley Castle PTA's

ELMFEST

Saturday 11th July 2026
2pm - 5pm

BBQ ~ Inflatables ~ Bar
Live Music ~ Craft Stalls
Games and much more!

Elmley Castle C.E. First School
Main Street, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire, WR10 3HS

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/l/s/1NHLOULFH061N?ref_wl_share

1ST MAY 2026



Photography: iStock.com/Dimensions, Shutterstock.com/Adam Vachon, Shutterstock.com/FreePress



The parents' **lottery**
Support your school with every ticket



WIN £25,000 and SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

Various prizes up for grabs each week!
Buy your tickets at theparentslottery.org

Choose us on The Parents Lottery list → Each ticket only £1 → Play with up to six tickets → Prize draw every Friday → Each ticket supports our school



The Parents Lottery is a weekly lottery organised by Parentkind Enterprises Ltd (PKE, Company no. 10664381), a wholly owned subsidiary of Parentkind, to be run under our terms operating licence number: 0079041. The Parents Lottery is a daily 50/50 draw. Having a lottery is a form of gambling. It may be addictive and you may need information and/or help with a problem or addiction, please call the National Gambling Helpline on 0800 9000 03.

GamblieAware GAMBLING COMMISSION

Parentkind The parents' lottery

PTA



THE PARENTS LOTTERY

- 3 TICKETS SOLD FROM OUR SCHOOL SO FAR..
- £35 RAISED FOR THE SCHOOL OFF 3 TICKETS
- 1 PERSON HAS WON ALREADY!!!

WOULD YOU LIKE A CHANCE TO WIN AND SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL?

COMMUNITY

1ST MAY 2026



All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for all children aged between 5-8 years old. They will have 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills!

Dynamos Cricket provides a perfect introduction to Cricket for all 8-11 year olds! Dynamos is all about fun and provides children with a more social offer, focusing on the skills to play the game.

Find your nearest All Stars & Dynamos programme using the link below!



<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Search>

