



The Hayfield Herald

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome to a 'bumper' issue of the Herald, with lots of important information for you to read. On the following pages, you'll find an online safety update; notice of upcoming roadwork and details about our wonderful colleague Laura and the amazing challenge she has taken on in 'Strictly for Sebastain'!

It's been a brilliant two weeks in school and on top of the privilege of working alongside our amazing children and staff, we've been inspired by two sporting heroes! Last week, we were visited by wheelchair-basketballer and TV presenter, Jordan Jarrett-Brown, and this week we were delighted to welcome para-canoeist, Ben Gallagher. Both visits were organised by Miss McGeechan and the Mintridge Foundation and really taught our children a lot about resilience and aspirations. They'll be more about this in the local press in the coming weeks.



Miss McGeechan has also been busy with sporting events this week, taking a team to compete in an inter-school archery competition and then later went to Kettering Leisure Village with our girls football team to play their first round of matches in the Inter School League. More events are on the horizon and we'll keep you posted.

In more news that I have to share with you, I want to let you know that our 'Christmas Jumper Day', in support of Save The Children, raised £273.42 and our Children In Need mufti day raised an almighty £506.87. Thank you for being such a caring and generous community!

Something I really love about working at Hayfield Cross is how diverse and inclusive we are! We are so welcoming to all and we have a wonderful mix of cultures and backgrounds. To this end – and giving everyone a little forenotice – we will be celebrating our 'make-up' later in the Spring or Summer term. We want to learn about one another's heritage, language, beliefs and traditions... and celebrations... but we will need help from families with this so watch this space!

Finally, I know that it is difficult with all the road works going on but can I just give a gentle reminder on punctuality – it is so important that children are in school on time and ready for the start of their lessons. Lateness not only impacts them in missing their teacher's input into the lesson but can also distract other learners. If you know roadworks delay your journey, please try to leave a little earlier to negate this – we will be very grateful!

I hope you have a lovely weekend and I'll see you on the gates.

Mr Albert

*Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid.
The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go (Joshua 1:9)*

Joy - Integrity - Fellowship

Our team have had a number of chats/calls from parents recently, about their children hearing inappropriate things from other children that they in turn have heard from social media, usually identified as TikTok. We're attaching the below poster to remind you to be aware of what your children are doing online and also that TikTok is for children aged 13 and over.

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.



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.



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 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

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: TikTok.epm

Strictly for Sebastian



Laura & David

Laura Hitchcock has taken up the Strictly for Sebastian challenge and has just 10 weeks of training with her professional partner, David Renshaw, before facing the public vote for their Waltz, Cha Cha Cha and Show Dance. The big night will take place on Saturday the 2nd of March 2024 at Wicksteed Park, Kettering.

They need your support to have a chance of winning. Every pound you donate to team Zoe & Ash helps them gain points on the night.

To make a donation please go to <https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mash-dance-s4s24-laura-and-david> or scan the QR code.

All money donated will support **Sebastian**, a six year old little boy, who has had Neuroblastoma for 3 years, a vicious childhood cancer that kills. We need to raise money to try and pay for potentially life saving treatment and to make sure he is able to fill every day of his life with fun, joy, and love by supporting his parents with his care.



Dates for your diary

Young Voices Concert – **Wednesday 24th January**

TOPS Meeting – **Wednesday 31st January 2pm**

BOOK FAIR – **Wednesday 7th February – Tuesday 13th February**

HALF TERM School Closes – Friday 16th February

School Reopens – Monday 26th February

World Book Day – **Monday 4th March**

Parents Coffee Morning – **Tuesday 5th March**

Y5 Space Centre – **Thursday 14th March**



We are happy to say that we are seeing a reduction in the number of parents and carers who are parking on the zig zag lines outside school. You will see that the council has renewed their banners, following the high winds, **with the clear message that the zig-zags are not to be parked on at anytime.**

As you now, local residents have been advised to contact 101 and report the registration numbers of drivers who park dangerously.

In the half-term break, just for your notice, Hanwood Park Avenue (outside school) is being closed whilst the developers and council upgrade the road crossing including introducing speeding measures and bollards to encourage safer parking.

Safeguarding Matters

Always be aware of what children are doing when they're on mobile devices (phones, tablets and laptops), computers and game consoles. Make sure they're only accessing age-appropriate content and games, whilst talking to them about the dangers of talking to, or sharing information with, people they don't know.

If you're concerned about the well-being of any child or adult, please speak to either Mr Albert, Mrs Plesca, Mrs Heard, Mrs Jones, Mrs Stolz or any of our safeguarding leads. For any out of hours concerns please contact Northamptonshire MASH (multi agency safeguarding hub) on:

0300 126 7000

or out of hours: **01604 626 938**

A prayer for God's ongoing support

Almighty God,

In Christ you make all things new:

Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives, make known your heavenly glory;

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

Who is alive and reigns with you,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for ever.

Amen.



Follow our X account:

@hayfield_cross and

the class pages to keep up to date with what's happening...



Instagram

We have our very own Instagram account to share whole school awesomeness! Please follow us at:

@Hayfield_Cross