

17th January 2025

MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and friends,

We are officially over halfway through January and the mornings are getting a little lighter every day!! We have had a busy week with more topic launch days, visitors to school and already a Geography field trip; Key Stage One have been getting to know their local area even better by identifying landmarks in our amazing city!



Nursery have enjoyed reading the story 'The Three Little Pigs' this week. Their classroom smelt delicious when they were making a house from straw, or straws and marshmallows as the 'connectors' before testing out how strong their homes were when the big bad wolf came along with his..... hairdryer to try and blow them down!! Well done, Nursery!



Year 6 had a super time getting acquainted with golf yesterday, when we had Cameron Steedman from Ripon City Golf Club to deliver golf sessions throughout the day! It's always a priority at Moorside for the children to have opportunities to take part in a range of sporting activities and competitions, to find a sport that they really enjoy! Well done Year 6 - Cameron was full of praise and spotted some budding professionals! There is further information about golf opportunities for primary-aged pupils at the end of this letter!

Y6 Marrick Visit

Year 6 are heading off on their adventures to Marrick Priory for the week next week! Miss Padbury- Hunt, Mr Price and Mrs Jemmett will be accompanying them so that they are safe and well whilst away from home. Mrs Plummer and Miss Barnes will be teaching Y3 at school, who will have Mrs Willock with them as usual.

Mrs Lawson-Ross and Mrs Plummer will be teaching Year 1 with Mrs Jennings supporting the class as usual too.

We will update our Facebook page to share all their fun! Have a great time Year 6. We will notify parents when they return to school on Friday 24th January for optional collection!

Attendance

Our attendance this week in school has been 97.42%. This is AMAZING!!! All in the green this week!



w/c	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
06/01/25	98.79%	100%	95.74%	99.45%	100%	94.44%	97.84%
13/01/25	96.23%	100%	98.33%	100%	98.52%	98.07%	98.65%

Well done to Years 1 and 3 with 100%! We are very impressed. Keep it up!!

Safeguarding

Amongst children – TikTok has approximately 220 million users, providing a near-endless reel of short clips intended to entertain, educate and more. However, along with its enormous userbase comes a significant number of possible risks: Ofcom have dubbed it the most likely app on which teen users would potentially suffer harm. With the platform reaching astronomical levels of success among the younger generation, it's vitally important for parents and educators to understand the risks it poses. Please see the free guide at the end of this letter, which informs you about the most prominent potential dangers associated with TikTok and offers expert advice on how to safeguard young people who are navigating the site. **It is an app which is not recommended until children are aged 13+.**



Buddies

Our Buddies Breakfast and After School Club is getting busier which is fantastic!! We have a booking form on the website at <https://www.moorsideschools.org.uk/after-school-clubs/> which needs to be completed for the week ahead by the previous Friday, to avoid disappointment!

With enough notice, we can provide additional staff if numbers are high on some evenings, but unfortunately, we have had to turn people down for last-minute bookings on the day, which we want to avoid!! Also, if you no longer require a space that you have booked, please let us know, as it may be that we can fill the space with someone who needs it. Many thanks.

Appointments During the School Day

We understand that it is unavoidable when doctors and hospital appointments are offered within the school day, however, there are increasing numbers of children who are in and out of school for eye tests, the dentist and other appointments, which causes disruption to the children's learning. Please could you keep this in mind and where possible, arrange appointments outside of the school day or in half term holidays so that classes and lessons are settled.... We really appreciate you bearing this in mind.

NYC Lunch Menu



North Yorkshire Caterers are now providing 2 menus per year - September until February half term and February half term until July. The new menu from February half term onwards will be sent out next week for our EYFS and Key Stage 1 parents to select lunch choices for after half term. We will of course update this on the school website too and email out to all parents. There are some lovely new choices to enjoy!

As always, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please get in touch with us as soon as you can by emailing the admin email or contacting us by phone. We will do our very best to help you or signpost you to someone who can!! I hope that you all have a super weekend ahead and look forward to seeing the children back in school (or ready for Marrick) on Monday!

With very best wishes,
Mrs Rowett
Headteacher

Diary Dates:

Monday 20 th – Friday 25 th January 2025	Y6 Residential Trip to Marrick Priory
w/c 10 th February 2025	Safety Week
Friday 14 th February 2025	Break-up for Half Term Holidays
Monday 24 th February 2025	Return to School after Half Term Holidays
w/c 3 rd March 2025	Month of Reading Madness
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World Book Day
w/c 7 th March 2025	Science Week
Tuesday 11 th March 2025	Reading Cafe
Friday 4 th April 2025	Break-up for Easter Holidays at 3pm
Monday 21 st April 2025	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Children return to School



The advertisement features a collage of three photographs showing children and adults on a golf course. The top photo shows a young boy in a red shirt swinging a golf club while a man in a blue shirt watches. The middle photo shows a child in a black shirt preparing to hit a golf ball. The bottom photo shows two children carrying golf bags on a path. The Ripon City Golf Club logo, featuring a yellow horseshoe and the text 'RIPON CITY GOLF CLUB', is overlaid on the top photo.

RIPON CITY GOLF CLUB
JUNIOR GOLF TASTER SESSIONS AND COACHING

FREE FEBRUARY HALF-TERM TASTER SESSIONS
At Ripon City Golf Club for Children aged 9- 11 years.

Wednesday 19th February
either 10am - 12 noon or 1pm - 3pm

*Following the tasters we are offering a Pathway into Golf:
Weekly Group Coaching Course £12.00 per session.*

Sessions led by PGA Assistant Professional with safeguarding training and full DBS.
Contact us via email or telephone for more information or to register your child:
Call: **01765 603640 (option 2)**
email: **cameronsteedmanpga@gmail.com**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

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.

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.

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.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>



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