

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 29

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week, Boorley Park came together to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a special assembly. During this time, the children learned about the historical significance of Victory in Europe Day, marking the end of World War II in Europe. We reflected on the sacrifices made and the joy that peace brought, fostering an understanding of this important moment in history. The assembly included thoughtful discussions and moments of reflection, helping the children connect with the past.

Following the assembly, each class engaged in a variety of activities to further mark VE Day. The children learnt about life during wartime. It was great to see the children engaged and learning in such a hands-on way, bringing the spirit of the day to life within their classrooms and helping them to appreciate the significance of peace and remembrance.



INSPIRING MINDS

This half-term, Year 3 are exploring the dynamic world of street art, drawing inspiration from the famous artist Banksy. The children have been experimenting with watercolours, discovering new techniques to bring their artwork to life. As part of their creative journey, they have used a colour wheel, learning how to use different gradients to enhance their work. It has been an exciting week of creativity and discovery, and we are looking forward to seeing the children apply this to their outcome in the coming weeks!



NURTURING FUTURES

At our school, we deeply value a school built on kindness, where we look out for and after each other. An important part of this is showing kindness in all our interactions. We are actively encouraging all our children to demonstrate kindness towards one another in their daily interactions, both big and small. It's been wonderful seeing lots of examples both at playtime and in lessons of children demonstrating this. By choosing kind words and actions, we build friendships, show respect and create a happier and more supportive environment for everyone in our school community.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

We continue to look to find creative ways to strengthen our school community by offering opportunities for connection and support. We are pleased to share that Mrs Carpenter will be available offsite in the Community Centre, Café on Friday 22nd May from 2:30pm to 3:00pm. This will be an informal opportunity for any parents who would like to chat with Mrs Carpenter for support or advice. Please feel free to drop in during this half-hour slot. We look forward to seeing you there.



As the warmer weather arrives (and we hope is here to stay), please ensure all children have a water bottle and hat in school. We would kindly ask that sun cream is applied before the children come to school.

SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

In today's digital world, it's essential that we work together to ensure our children are safe online. We teach our pupils about responsible online behaviour, including how to stay safe from cyberbullying, understanding privacy settings, and how to identify potential risks. We encourage parents and carers to have open conversations with their children about their online activities. In previous newsletters we have posted various information posters about different digital platform and online games, for example, You Tube, group chats and Fortnite. Please look back at these if you need any advise or support.



KEY DATES



May 2025

Friday 16th May 2:45pm Year 3 Parent Workshop - Magnets - In the Hall
Monday 19th May 3-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop - Food Tasting - In the Hall
Tuesday 20th May - Class photos
Tuesday 20th May 9:00-9:30am Year 1 Recorder concert - In the Hall
Tuesday 20th May 3:00pm Year R Book Look – Year R classrooms
Thursday 22nd May 3-3:15pm Year 4 Parent Workshop - Clay dragon eye art exhibit - In the hall
Friday 23rd May 2:45-3pm Year 2 Parent Workshop - Art Gallery - classrooms
Friday 23rd May – Last Day of Term

Half Term Holidays - Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May 2025

June 2025

Monday 2nd June – First Day of Term
Wednesday 4th June Year 1 Trip to Portchester Castle
Thursday 5th June Year 5 Trip to Warner Bros Studio
Wednesday 11th June Year R Sports Day-1:00-1:45pm Picnic - 1:45-2:45pm Games and then home
Thursday 12th June Sports Day - KS1 starting at 9:30am and KS2 starting at 1:15pm
Wednesday 18th June Year R Reserve Sports Day-1:00-1:45pm, Picnic-1:45-2:45pm Games and then home
Thursday 19th June Reserve Sports Day - KS1 starting at 9:30am and KS2 starting at 1:15pm

Friday 20th June INSET day - School closed to all pupils

Monday 23rd June at 2:30pm Year R Parent Workshop – Planting - Year R Classrooms
Wednesday 25th June - Transition Day
Friday 27th June Year R Mill Farm Visit to Boorley Park School

July 2025

Wednesday 2nd July 2:15-3pm - Rocksteady Concert to parents of Rocksteady children
Tuesday 8th July 2:45-3:15pm Parent Workshop - The Big Fat Quiz of Year 4 - In the Hall
Wednesday 9th July 9.15am Year 2 End of Year Celebration Assembly - In the Hall
Wednesday 9th July 2:45 pm Year 1 Parent Workshop - Fruit Kebabs - classrooms
Friday 11th July 2:45-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop (TBC)
Monday 14th July 3:50pm Choir Performance to parents
Wednesday 16th July 2.15am Year 2 End of Year Celebration Assembly - In the Hall
Thursday 17th July 2:45-3pm Year 3 Parent Workshop - Summer Picnic– On the field/Hall
Tuesday 22nd July – Last Day of Term

Wednesday 23rd July – Friday 29th August Summer Holidays

A yellow, hand-drawn style rectangular graphic with a dashed black line and an arrow pointing to the right. The text "PTA CORNER" is written in a black, handwritten font inside the yellow shape.

PTA CORNER

We're thrilled to share some exciting updates and successes from recent PTA activities!

Thanks to your fantastic support, we raised £449.25 from the Easter Trail and £153 through our Bag2School collection. These funds are already being put to great use—construction has begun on the PTA-funded Community Garden at school! We can't wait to see this new space blossom into a vibrant, engaging area for all our children to enjoy.

Also, keep an eye out—Frozen Fridays are coming back soon! You'll be able to pick up cheap ice lollies outside school to cool down and support a great cause at the same time.

Thank you as always for your continued support!

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.

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.



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