

The Gattons Infant School

Autumn Term Newsletter

28th November 2025

Thank you to FOGS and all the volunteers, as well as everyone who came and supported the Winter Fayre on Saturday. FOGS raised an amazing £4370 towards our garden room. If you know anyone who builds garden rooms locally, please let me know as I am currently looking at quotes.

Thank you to everyone who came to parents evening this week. The teachers always enjoy sharing your child's learning with you. If you weren't able to make it, please talk to your class teacher and they will be happy to see you before the end of term.

Next week, we start our Christmas festivities with our carol service at The King's Church on Tuesday 2nd December, for Year 1 and 2. There will be collection at the end and the money will be split between The King's Church and our OPAL play fund.

On 11th December, Reception will be performing their nativity and FOGS are putting on discos for Year 1 and 2 after school. Please remember to bring your tickets to the nativity performance.

The Year 2 choir have been invited to perform at St Edward's church carol concert on 4th December at 3.30pm. They will also be singing on Friday 12th at the Christmas market in church walk at 2pm. Please come along and support the choir - all are welcome!

Have a lovely weekend!

Sarah Gospel
Headteacher

Dates to remember

Tuesday 2nd December
Carol Service at
The King's Church
Yr1 and Yr2

Thursday 4th December Owls DT
workshop 9am

Tuesday 9th December Eagles
DT workshop 9am

Thursday 11th December
Reception Nativity
Concert

Thursday 11th December
FOGS Discos - Yr 1
& Yr 2

Tuesday 16th December Puffins
DT workshop 9am

OPAL

We are currently looking for donations of:

Baseboards for Lego



Plastic bats

Wooden electrical reels

Skipping ropes

Chalk

Small world people



Please find the links for our OPAL and Amazon wish lists if you would like to donate any resources to school. Thank you to those who have donated this term - it makes a huge difference!

Opal <https://amzn.eu/7rcPQwB>

Main list <https://amzn.eu/1XkJKLG>

What's happening in school!

Year 1 have been learning about The Great Fire of London. We all took part in a drama workshop, travelling back in time to imagine what it was like. The children know lots of facts about it. We have been looking at photos of the houses that were made from wood and noticed that some had thatched roofs too. The children pretended to be houses that are close together and saw how the fire spread quickly.



The Reception children had a great time taking part in a Jolly Postman virtual workshop. They became Jolly Posties and went on a virtual journey to deliver mail to different storybook characters. Everyone received a wonderful postman writing pack to take home.



In Year 2, we have been continuing the joy of fairytales in Curious Quests and the children have been using their imaginations to continue the exciting adventure. We have received a mystery chest called the Indsidium- do we dare open it?! We have also been practising for the Christmas concert and singing all the songs. We look forward to seeing you at The King's Church on Tuesday!

Christmas Lunch - Thursday 18th December

We will be having our Christmas lunch on Thursday 18th December. If you have already booked a meal for this date, you will have received a notification from Chartwells saying that it has been cancelled. Please go back in and re-book the Christmas lunch if you want your child to have a hot meal on this date. **The cut off for ordering is December 4th.**

School Council Update

The School Council children have been checking classrooms using the criteria below to see if they are being eco-conscious. We will be building up to a weekly Eco award in rainbow assembly soon. The Year 2 school councillors have been training the Year 1s with how to do their clipboards correctly. They are very proud of their job!

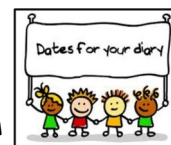


Diary Dates

December

Tuesday 2nd
Thursday 11th
Thursday 11th
Monday 15th
Thursday 18th
Friday 19th

Carol Service @ The King's Church - Yr 1 & 2 - 1.45pm
Reception Nativity at school 9.30am or 2pm
FOGS Christmas Discos - Years 1 & 2
Thank you assembly for volunteers 9.05am
'All Things Christmas' Day
Last day of the Autumn Term



January

Monday 5th
Tuesday 6th
Thursday 15th

INSET Day - School closed for children
First day of the Spring Term
Closing date for starting school and junior transfer applications

February

Monday 16th - Friday 20th
Monday 23rd

Half term holiday
INSET Day - School closed for children

March

Friday 27th
Monday 30th - Friday 10th April

Last day of the Spring Term
Easter Holiday

April

Monday 13th

First day of the Summer Term

Safeguarding - please read the important information about Tik Tok and how to keep your children safe. Please remember that it is recommended for age 13+. If you are happy for your child to use it, please read how to keep them safe, including blocking inappropriate content. As always, please make sure you know what your children are accessing if they are using tablets unsupervised.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view 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 allows anyone to download or comment on them.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage 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 cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

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 they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, 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 important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

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.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](#) [/www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

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FREE Language Cafes in Burgess Hill

Come along and learn English, make friends and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee!

Address: Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill, RH15 8DX

10:30am - 12:30pm:

24th September

8th October

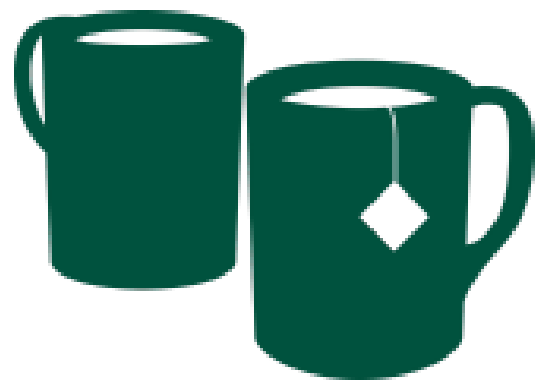
22nd October

5th November

19th November

3rd December

17th December



Want to find out more?

www.advicewestsussex.org.uk

If you have questions, you can email us at:
community.engagement@westsussexcab.org.uk



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