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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 soundbites, 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 every day, 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 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's videos on the app.

### TIKTOK FAME

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 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.

## NOS National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday 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 stardom, 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 offenders and comments 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 Badh 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.



# The Anchor News

Serving the local community in the name of Christ since 1859

14th February 2020

# Learning for Life, Anchored in Christ

Hello Everyone,  
My name is Mrs Rodgers and I joined St Clement's in January working as the class teacher alongside Mrs Nizamis in Year 1. Everyone has been so welcoming and over the past few weeks I have been very impressed by the children's hard work.  
This week is International week; a time to celebrate diversity and culture across the world. Each year group has had a different focus country and we hope that you enjoyed spending time with your children at the parent workshops. The children in 1 have been learning all about the United Kingdom, London and the Queen. Check out our class blog to find out more.  
I hope you all have a wonderful half term and I look forward to seeing all those wonderful smiles when we return.  
Mrs Rodgers - Class Teacher



Our values focus this half term is **Service**



## Year 4 explore the local canal...

Last Friday we took a walk along the local canal towpath as part of our 'Birmingham and beyond' (canals) topic. We looked at and talked about the different parts of the canal and how the lock gates work to raise and lower the water allowing canal boats to move along the canal.  
At different points along the way we stopped and the children did quick observational sketches of the locks, bridges and the Lock Keepers House.  
Once we were done we completed our walk back to school in the beautiful sunshine, taking a short cut through the church. It was chilly, but it was great to be outside in the sun and take in the local area.  
Mrs Austin-Smith

### Important Upcoming Dates

Friday 14th February (TODAY)
<b>Last Day of Half Term</b>
<b>Half Term Mon 17th - Fri 21st</b>
<b>Monday 24th February</b> Return to School <u>Normal Time</u>
<b>Tuesday 25th February</b> Year 3 start Swimming
<b>THURSDAY 27th February</b> Stay & Play 9-10am (see inside for more details)
<b>Reminder Monday 9th March</b> <b>- SCHOOL CLOSED -</b> <b>Teacher Training day</b>
<b>Tuesday 10th March</b> School open as usual.

### Reminder

On Monday 9th March, school will be closed for Teacher Training.

It will open on Tuesday 10th as usual.

**Year 3 Parents** please note that Year 3 will be going swimming on Tuesdays starting the **first week back** (Tue 25th Feb). Please make sure they bring their swimming kit in every week.

## WELCOME



Thank you to those that applied for our vacancy as a lunchtime supervisor. The role has been filled by Sarah, who is settling in really well and getting to know all our wonderful children.



## St. Clement's Stay & Play



Stay & Play sessions are starting on **THURSDAY 27th February**. The session would run every week on a **Thursday** between 9 -10am for people with children aged **3 years and under**. Tell your family and friends

**Reminder**- There has been a recent spate of children wearing trainers to school. These are not part of our school policy.

**Expected uniform:** black/ grey trousers or skirt/pinafore; navy blue cardigan/jumper; white shirt/polo; **black shoes/boots**; black, grey or blue headscarf. Pupils should not be wearing any jewellery except small studs. They will be asked to remove any other jewellery. Nail polish should not be worn. Thank you.



### Africa

In Nursery and Reception we focused on the continent of Africa because we couldn't decide on just one country to look at! We are lucky to have children whose families come from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Nigeria, The Gambia and Algeria. During the week we completed lots of exciting activities and looked closely at animals and fruit. Nursery had the chance to even go on Safari while Reception had a fruit tasting session.

All our parents had a great time at our African inspired Arts and Crafts workshop creating different artwork with their children. The work produced were inspired by African fabrics, African inspired jewellery, coloured flags from our family's background and beautiful sunset pictures with African animals.

### United Kingdom

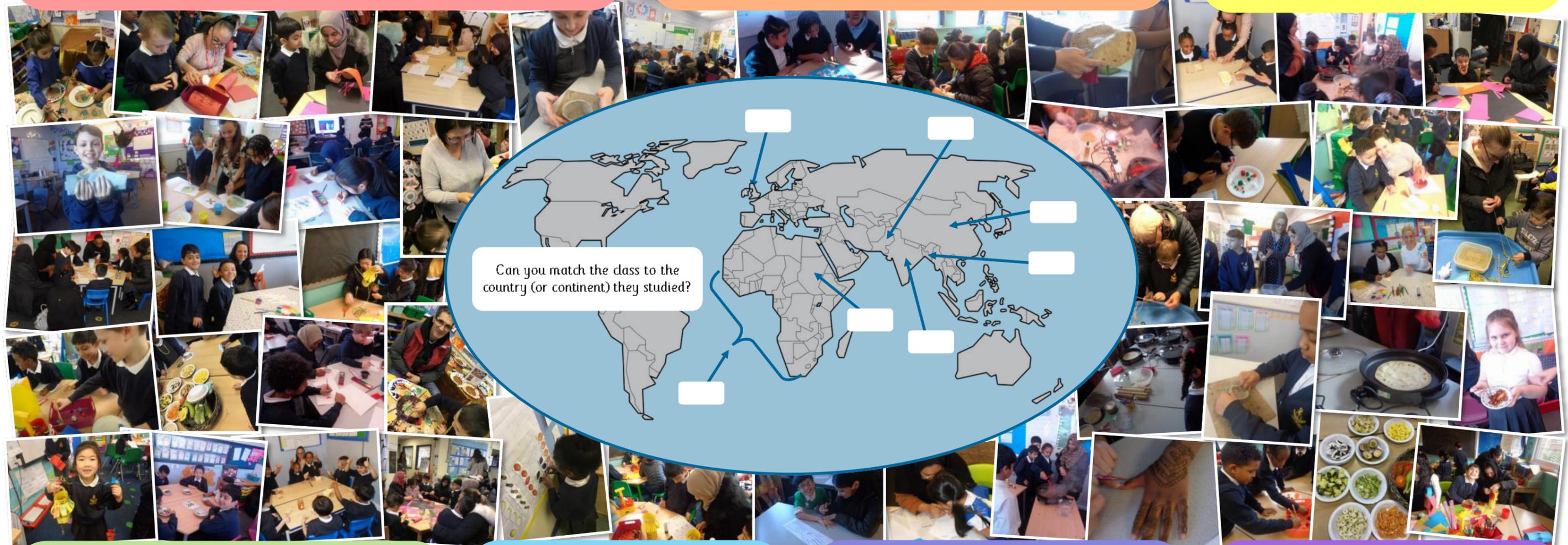
This week Year 1 have focussed on the United Kingdom. We learnt about the four countries in the United Kingdom and we looked carefully at each country, their flag, symbol and location on the map.

We learnt a non-fiction text all about the Queen and we can now recite it using actions. We have also enjoyed being creative this week, we have used pastels to create self-portraits, we looked at how we are all different and unique. We also created paintings of London landmarks using press printing during our parents workshop. We also created fact files on the Queen using all the information we have learnt. We have been super busy and had a great week!!

### China

Year 2 have been busy learning about China this week. We have learned about their flag, food and exciting landmarks that China has to offer.

We have held chopstick competitions and created some lovely Chinese lantern shape poetry. We finished our exciting week off with a parent workshop creating Chinese lanterns and Chinese dragons. We have all had lots of fun learning about the wonderful country China!



### India

This week Year 3 have enjoyed learning all about India. We began the week with a parent work shop, where everyone made a Rangoli patterns out of rice, everyone took such care when creating their patterns! For the rest of the week, we worked hard to write our own non-fiction book about India. We have written about the geographical features, sporting stars, Hinduism and it even has recipe ideas!

Together we worked hard to make spicy chick peas and used lots of different cooking skills when preparing our food then cooking it safely. Some of us were hesitant to try new foods but everyone had a try, and loved it!

### Bangladesh

In year 4 we focussed on Bangladesh and compared life there to life in England. We used the information we found out to rewrite the fairy tale Cinderella set in Bangladesh.

As part of our workshop, we used collage materials to dress guests at the ball in traditional Bangladeshi clothes. We also created pots and painted them with traditional patterns.

### Pakistan

Year 5 have been looking at the fantastic Pakistan! We have learnt so much about the culture, the food, the awe inspiring buildings and monuments as well as so much more!

We've discovered a real appreciation for the art especially, with how exciting our Parent workshop was on Wednesday and how we are all covered in Mehndi patterns – which we are all really happy with! We are really looking forward to sharing all of the information with the other Year groups at St Clements.

### Sudan

In year 6, we began the week by sharing our own cultural heritage and then moved on to study Sudan, where some of us have family from. We soon found that there was much more to Sudan than we had realised and wrote persuasive information texts about the country. We also took our work into maths, creating line graphs to compare the climate with England. On Tuesday, we had a workshop where we used watercolours to recreate art in the style of the Sudanese artist, Dr Rashid Diab.