

Robert Browning, Snowfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



26th February 2021

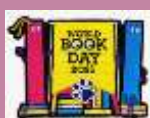


@PrimaryRobert @SNSPrimary @tbprimary Find us at: www.bridgesfederation.org.uk

School CLOSURE

As of Tuesday 5th January our schools are closed to all children except for children of key workers and the most vulnerable. We look forward to welcoming all our children back to school on Monday 8th March.

World Book Day 2021



Next week, we will be celebrating World Book Day across the Federation. EYFS bubble will celebrate it on Wednesday 3rd March and all other year groups will celebrate on Thursday 4th March. Our theme this year is 'escapism' - we want the children to learn and understand that books and stories can take them to another time, place, or even to other imaginary worlds!

If your child will be coming to school that day, we are asking that they come dressed up as their favourite book character. For the children who are learning at home, it would be amazing if they could recreate the front cover of their favourite book. They can dress up too! Please take a look at the examples below! Teaching staff are busy preparing fun activities for the day and we are all super excited. We hope you will join in the fun and celebrate World Book Day with us too!



If you have any questions please let us know.

Keeping in Touch

We hope you are all safe and well. However, If your circumstances have changed or you just need to speak to someone please call your individual school on their respective number.

Emergency Grants for School Uniforms

The Newcomen Collett Foundation has served the young people of Southwark for over 300 years, and today the charity provides support to young people by making grants to Southwark residents and to organisations providing projects in the borough.

They also provide grants for the purchase of school uniforms for families experiencing exceptional financial hardship. This is how our parents can claim an emergency uniform grant.

- If you are aware that a child does not have a school uniform due to exceptional financial hardship, then we would welcome an application for an emergency grant to purchase school uniform for that child.
Applications are made online from our website, www.newcomencollett.org.uk
- Once you click on the home page where it states "apply here for a uniform grant", you will be taken to the application page. There you will need to register, by inputting a current email address and password.
- By return you will be sent an email to confirm your registration login and once you click this you can commence an application for a uniform grant (please check junk mail for this).
- If the application is approved, you will receive an email with a letter of offer and claim form.
- Once you have purchased the uniform, all that is left to do is to upload your claim form and receipt on to your online account (clicking the My Applications button on the left-hand side of the screen). Applications must be made on the authority of the headteacher.
- The application must be submitted before the uniform is purchased.
- The school must purchase the uniform for the child, not the parent.
- Grants up to £100 per child are available (subject to funds being available).

Please contact us if you have any questions or need help.

Learning with an SEN Child at Home

Click on the link below where you will find ideas to support learning at home from Cherry Garden School:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAEW3fa_P-U/p82SxPWS9h0EWaOGLoV18Q/view?utm_content=DAEW3fa_P-U&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

Keeping Children Safe in Education

The Government has updated their 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' advice and guidance to support parents safeguarding their children while online during the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19) outbreak.

Please click on the link here:

[**Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): keeping children safe online**](#)



The following children received a certificate for their independent learning!



Reading Eggs

Gold - Maya Y1, Francis Y2, Val YR, Emily Y1, Alfie YR, Emma YR

Silver - Eliana YN, Janelle YR, Francis Y2, Sofia Y1, Uthman YR, Elin YN

Bronze - Ahmed Y1, Assia YR

Reading Eggspress

Gold - Baraka Y4

Bronze - Kimora Y5, Domenico Y4, Izzabel Y6, Ola Y6, Nolawi Y3, Isabelle Y4

Mathletics

Silver - Raila Y3, Alma YR, Emma YR, Anjanaya Y2, Jason Y3

Bronze - Trinette Y5, Zuriel Y5, Temidayo Y5, Temitayo Y5, Emma YR, Alma YR, Hope Y5, Bethasny Y3, Eliana Y1, Salem Y4, Mosunmola Y3

Ola Y6 Melat Y2, Iltreh Y1, Yaseen Y5, Anjaneya Y2, Fatima Y6

Isabella Y3, Raf YR, Enzo Y3, Salma Y4, Sulayman Y6, Keegan Y3, Natalia Y6, Lilly Rose Y3, Jason Y3, Valesuis YR, Francis Y2, Lymas Y1
Meaghan Y1, Farhan Y6, Aleeza Y6, Inayah YR, Mungiva Y6, Izzabel Y6, Milo Y6, Arthur YR, Pixie Y6, Hadil Y6, Prince Y2, Fahad Y4, Domenico Y5, Zoe Y5, Param Y5, Parin Y5



Reading Eggspress

Bronze - Isaac Y2, Rabia Y3, Annalisa Y4, Ephraim Y5, Bella Y6, Milan Y2, Nadir Y6

Reading Eggs

Gold - Olive Y1, Ksenija YN, Amani Y3, Ibrahim Y2

Silver - Asher YR, Rashed YN

1st - Anthony Y1

2nd - Connor Y5, Theo Y1

Mathletics

Gold - Suraya Y3, Moaad Y6, Arthur Y2

Silver - Isaac Y2, Amirah Y2, Gibril Y3, Sian Y4, Mailyah Y2, Sophia Y6, Wassim Y3, Elijah Y5, Xingya Y5, Jayden Y5, Leah Y5, Aden Y1

Bronze - Nathaniel Y4, Annalisa Y4, Asher Y4, Ephraim Y5, Sara Y2, Ibrahim Y2, Kajus Y6, Titus Y4, Milly Y4, Armani Y5, Tino Y6, Daivansh Y1

Maria Y1, La'rayah Y3, Amari Y5, Amarion Y2, Lexi Y2, Rabia Y3, Naasir YR, Nadir Y6, Simra Y4, Zain Y5, Collins Y5, Shakirah Y2, Jason Y4
Joel Y3, Olive Y1, Iman Y4, Muhammed Y1, Tilly Y6, Amy Y4, Poppy Y1, Ava Y4, Moussa Y2, Malak Y6, Sabrine Y4, Deacon Y6, Chinonso Y2
Xingrui Y3, Frankie Y1, Scarlett Y4, Olivia S Y6, Mawata Y5, Neymar Y4, William Y1, Bella Y6, Amani Y3



Reading Eggspress

Gold - Angela (Y2), Qi Zong(Y5), Kimberly (Y6)

Reading Eggs

Gold - Melanie Y1, Yahya Y1

Silver - Franklin YR, Idris YR, Samuel Y2, Salman Y3

Mathletics

Silver - Anas Y1, Melanie Y1, Kelly Y5, Isabelle Y5

Bronze - Teniola Y5, Jaydan Y5, Era Y1, Samy Y2, Shantall Y6, Simon Y3, Samara F Y1, Logan Y1, Chloe Y6, Al Y6, Paul Y6, Angela Y2

Hibatullah Y2, Hamad Y1



Well done to all of our children who have shared on Twitter examples of some of the activities they have been completing at home and at school.

Below are the names of those children along with some Twitter posts.

Robert Browning

Novel YR	Ehan YR
Sara YR	Zarifah YR
Idris YR	Rona YR
Logan Y1	Melanie Y1
Yahya Y1	Awwal Y1
Reyan Y1	Siham Y1
Ayse Y1	Mahzala Y1
Kehmarly Y1	Samara F Y1
Sam Y1	Maria Y1
Yunus Y1	Fikky Y1
Devonte Y1	Ashley Y1
Stephany Y1	Caleb Y1
Maksim Y1	Tiffany Y1
Aaron Y2	Abbey Y2
Adar Y2	Angela Y2
Ekram Y2	Felicia Y2
Jack Y2	Jaydenae Y2
Joshua Y2	Kaiden Y2
Kamarley Y2	Livinny Y2
Rosie Y2	Samy Y2
Samuel Y2	Sayid Y2
Sophie Y2	Thiago Y2
Michael Y3	Le'Rico Y3
Debbie Y3	Meshach Y3
Amreen Y3	Imaan Y3
Sana Y3	Gabriel Y3
Rahi Y3	Lily Y3
Simon Y3	Mohammed Y3
Naa'im Y3	Michael Y3
Nasir Y3	Mason Y3
Teddy Y3	Raied Y3
Anam Y3	Austin Y3
George Y3	Jayden Y3
Ahmet Y3	Kara Y3
Salmon Y4	Aaliyah Y4
Aamir Y4	Aia Y4
Chelsea Y4	Enoch Y4
Ermal Y4	Fatouma Y4
Fawaz Y4	Hassan Y4
Jasmin Y4	Joseph Y4
Kamilah Y4	Kelahnie Y4
Ledion Y4	Lola Y4
Long Y4	Maryam Y4
Monae Y4	Mounir Y4
Monira Y4	Rayan Y4
Renaya Y4	Roihanna Y4
Skype Y4	Tnok Y4
Izrael Y4	Mavy Y4
Aella Y5	AJ Y5
Amelia Y5	Amila Y5
Amir Y5	Aneeqa Y5
Ellie Y5	Isabelle Y5
Jamia Y5	Jayden Y5
Jordean Y5	Kelly Y5
Liam Y5	Mamadou Y5
Mohamed M Y5	Mohamed J Y5
Natalie Y5	Nathalia Y5
Olivia Y5	Ore Y5
Qi Zong Y5	Ryaan Y5
Sheerin Y5	Tai Y5
Tenny Y5	Tomiwa Y5
Yusuf Y5	
Sara Y6	Timi Y6
Stefan Y6	Adan Y6
Amira Y6	Julia Y6
Zain Y6	

Snowfields

Salma YN	Axel YN
Noor YN	Eliana YN
Alia YN	
Saroban YR	Alma YR
T'Lyla YR	Tobi YR
Abby YR	Ilham YR
Alexander YR	Oliver YR
Halane Y1	Bella Y1
Riley Y1	Emily Y1
Iltrah Y1	Rosie Y1
Zavaria Y1	Raven Y1
Meaghan Y1	Reece Y1
Azzan Y1	Maya Y1
Tomisin Y1	Jayci Y1
Darcey-Jade Y1	Lymas Y1
Oscar Y1	Joab Y1
Ellie Rose Y1	
Kareem Y2	Iris Y2
Ayaan Y2	Melat Y2
Nia Y2	Kamil Y2
Nahla Y2	Anjaneya Y2
Kwabena Y2	Deetya Y2
Regina Y2	Theo Y2
Preston Y2	Francis Y2
Iman Y2	Tristan Y2
Prince Y2	Harun Y2
Rayana Y2	Josh Y2
Fillip Y2	Safa Y2
Lexie Y2	Adeola Y2
Emmanuel Y2	Qaii Y2
Jayden Y3	Nour Y3
Sumaiya Y3	Raila Y3
Oumeira Y3	Gabriella Y3
Yaseen Y3	Romeo Y3
Lilly Rose Y3	Bethany Y3
Mamadou Y3	Jacob Y3
Mosunmola Y3	Leena Y3
Joshua Y3	Isabella Y3
Benjamin Y3	Enzo Y3
Imran Y3	Keegan Y3
Jason Y3	Raphael Y3
Jaheim Y3	Leo Y3
Dawoud Y3	Katy Y4
Raphael Y4	Kiara Y4
Iman Y4	Amani Y4
Al Amin Y4	Lilian Y4
Zahon Y4	Edward Y4
Salem Y4	Izzy Y4
Perry Y4	Ava Y4
Yousuf Y4	Anita Y4
Elea Y4	Baraka Y4
Chrisamel Y4	Fahad Y4
Karmye Y4	Shem Y4
Ryan Y4	Salma Y4
Laila Jay Y4	Nolawi Y4
Adnan Y5	Angelina Y5
Braydon Y5	Domenico Y5
Dominika Y5	Fanta Y5
Hope Y5	Ilham Y5
Joannie Y5	Kawthar Y5
Kimora Y5	Lailaa Y5
Philippa Y5	Princess Y5
Reem Y5	Rosie Y5
Sana Y5	Sidney Y5
Temidayo Y5	Temitayo Y5
Trinette Y5	Yaseen Y5
Zain Y5	Zoe Y5
Param Y5	Parin Y5
Keira Y6	Solomon Y6
Samira Y6	Kianna Y6
Bailey Y6	Adam Y6
Khadija Y6	Ola Y6
Farhan Y6	Ebaadur Y6
Aleeza Y6	Casey Y6
Khaled Y6	Fatima Y6
Godmil Y6	Ayman Y6
Mungiva Y6	Milad Y6
KJ Y6	Abigail Y6
Izzy Y6	Sulayman Y6
Natalia Y6	Milo Y6
Christianna Y6	Tommy Y6
Pixie Y6	Hadii Y6

Tower Bridge

Ksenija YN	Sapphire YN
Zachary YN	Skylar YN
Joel YN	Ollie YN
Kayden YN	Lola YN
Nusaybah YR	Kneyah Y5
Amber YR	
Muhammed Y1	Ratwan Y1
William Y1	Olive Y1
Chiara Y1	Ella Y1
Elsa Y1	Janayah Y1
Maria Y1	Nafissah Y1
Theo Y1	Poppy Y1
Tomiwa Y1	Daivansh Y1
Niah Y1	Jaaziel Y1
Khalil Y1	Anthony Y1
Aden Y1	Yassine Y1
Damon Y1	Frankie Y1
Kara Y1	Leah Y1
Isaac Y2	Sara Y2
Ibrahim Y2	Amirah Y2
Mia Y2	Milan Y2
Amarion Y2	Maliyah Y2
Aneesha Y2	Lexi Y2
Shakirah Y2	Rudy Y2
Kaya Y2	Musawir Y2
Moussa Y2	Aliyah Y2
Chinonso Y2	Oscar Y2
Reggie Y2	Youcef Y2
Arthur Y2	Khaira Y2
Charlie Y2	Amani Y3
Joel Y3	Majed Y3
Rabia Y3	Kiyrah Y3
La'rayah Y3	Suraya Y3
Hazel Y3	Youcef Y3
Erik Y3	Gibril Y3
Nicole Y3	Salwa Y3
Wassim Y3	Ameerat Y3
Xingrui Y3	Reginald Y3
Shebaniah Y3	Taja'lee Y3
Vaughan Y3	Saira Y3
Nathaniel Y4	Ishmael Y4
Billy-Ray Y4	Lola Y4
Annalisa Y4	Amina Y4
Titus Y4	Milly Jade Y4
Belle Y4	Sian Y4
Simra Y4	Salma Y4
Jason Y4	Iman Y4
Amy Y4	Ava Y4
Ella Y4	Al-Hassane Y4
Sabrina Y4	Elizabeth Y4
Noah Y4	Courtney Y4
Scarlett Y4	Mohammed Y4
Kai Y4	Neymar Y4
Zakir Y4	Amerah Y4
Xingya Y5	Emily Y5
Saida Y5	Connor Y5
Charlie Y5	Ephraim Y5
Rakin Y5	Khaled Y5
Amari Y5	Elijah Y5
Rachel Y6	Elijah Y6
Fejiro Y6	Kajus Y6
Ruby Y6	Tino Y6
Moaad Y6	Amna Y6
Nadir Y6	Ruya Y6
Myrell Y6	Sophia Y6
Tilly Y6	Sirius Y6
Lordina Y6	Malak Y6
Deacon Y6	Scarlett Y6
Olivia R Y6	Olivia S Y6
Blue Y6	Bella Y6

Tweets



Yellow Class 🌟 @SNSYellow_3 · 17h
 Today, Year 3 have been learning about how ancient Egyptians used to write!
 Here are a few fantastic examples of names written in hieroglyphics.
 Thanks for sharing!



Red Class 📍 @SNSRed1 · 17h
 Brilliant 'cl' sound poster - I love the pictures to illustrate the words too!
 Can you find any 'cl' objects around your home? 🤔



sammyjoe curtis @sammyjoehope · 17h
 Managed to go park today and do some exercise @SNSPrimary @SNSBlue3



TBButterfly Retweeted
Mohamed Babali @mohamed_babali · 16h
 @tb_butterfly



TBButterfly Retweeted
Nithya SMurthy @Nithyasmurthy · 17h
 @tb_butterfly



Red Class 📍 @SNSRed1 · 16h
 Another lovely live story time this afternoon 🌟
 Your answers to the questions after the story were brilliant - I can tell that you were listening to the story very carefully!
 Look out to note for the story for our last live session before we are together again! 🤗



TBButterfly @tb_butterfly · 23 Feb
 A lovely picture of a pig and his show hut
Nithya SMurthy @Nithyasmurthy · 23 Feb
 @tb_butterfly



TBButterfly 📍 @tb_butterfly · 20h
 A lovely puzzle game for practising counting and number recognition! Well done!

Charlie @Charleequinlan · 22h
 @tb_butterfly



TB Orange Class Year 2 @TBOrangeClassY2 · 24 Feb
 Very effective Jackson Pollock inspired messy art! 🌟 Great job Youceff!
 @tbprimary

Alice Potgieter @PoogisterAlice · 23 Feb
 @TBOrangeClassY2 youceff art



TBButterfly @tb_butterfly · 23 Feb
 So many different buildings! Well done for getting your daily exercise and for your chess playing! 🌟

Emily @TheNewJoke · 23 Feb
 "I can see lots of shapes!" 🤔
 What a lovely day today! 🌟 so much fun on our daily walk! @Caterpillar15



TBButterfly @tb_butterfly · 23 Feb
Some lovely little pigs! Well done!

Charlie @Charleequinlan · 23 Feb
@tb_butterfly three little pigs

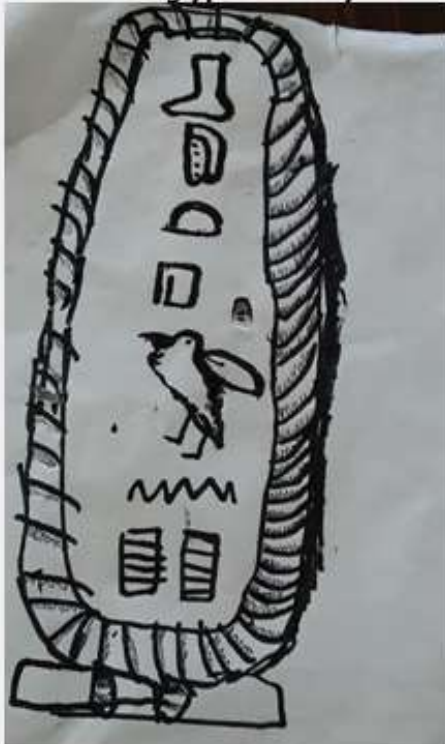


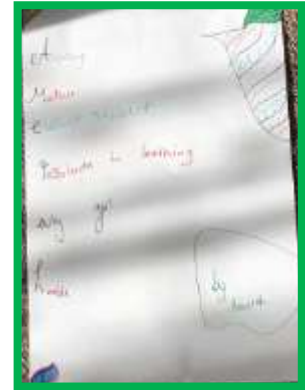
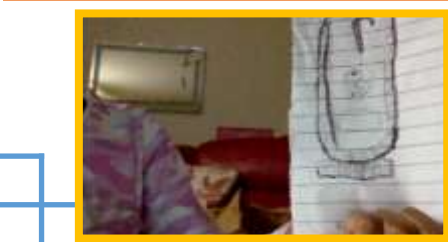
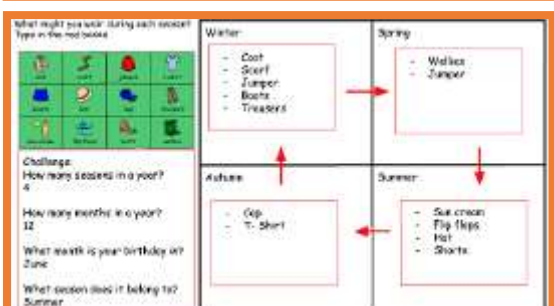
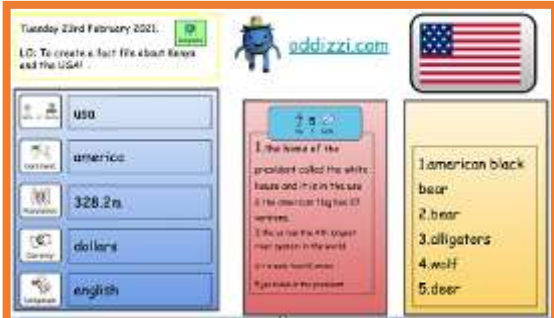
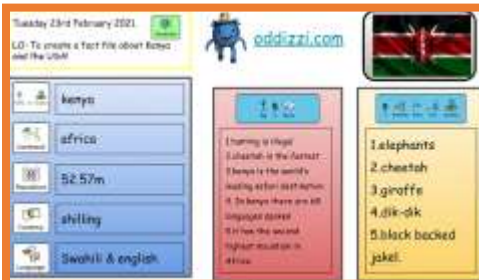
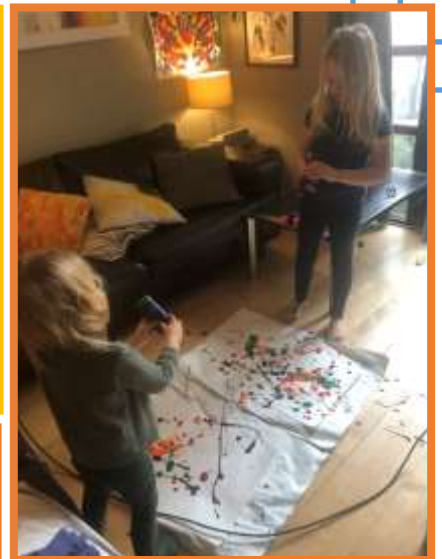
TBCaterpillar @Caterpillar1b · 23 Feb
What a good idea!

Emily @TheFleed_Family · 23 Feb
Making 2D shapes using pencils @Caterpillar1b



hieroglyph Bethany







Item	Tally	Total
circle	HHH HHH	10
blox	HHH HHH	10
Triangle	HHH HHH	10
Square	HHH HHH HHH	15
rectangle	HHH HHH HHH	25
oval	HHH HHH HHH	20
yellow	HHH	5



Time	Weather	What does it look like?
Tuesday	9am	1pm
9am	1pm	

Complete each number track.
a) 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30 32
b) 28 30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44
c) 40 38 36 34 32 30 28

Winter	Spring
Coat Jumper Boots Wellies Scarf Trousers	T-shirt Trousers Cap
Autumn	Summer
Coat Trousers Cap Boots	Shorts Sun cream Flip flops Hat

Things George should take.

Dragon food:
Fresh, smelly, tasty fish.

Food for George:
Nutrient, healthy, cucumber sandwiches.
Creamy, delicious, light biscuits.

Protective clothing:
Brand new, waterproof, leather boots.
Faded, comfy, fashionable sunglasses.

Other items:
Large, accurate, foldable map.

Seasons

Missing!

What does Beegu look like?
Beegu has yellow long ears, 2 eyes and yellow skin.

What is Beegu's personality like?
Beegu is kind, friendly, funny and worried because he wants mum.

Where does Beegu normally live?
Beegu lives in the spaceship.

Where was Beegu last seen?
Beegu was last seen Class playground.

Item	Tally
pencils	4
rubbers	5
colours	6



Example

Emily found a group of dragons on a sunny Saturday.

She made friends with the dragons because they all wanted someone to play with and talk to.

Now it is your turn!

Beginning

Mia's saw a herd of dragon muddy Monday.

He notice that the were just like her.

Item	Tally	Total
circle	HHH HHH	10
blox	HHH HHH	10
Triangle	HHH HHH	10
Square	HHH HHH HHH	15
rectangle	HHH HHH HHH	25
oval	HHH HHH HHH	20
yellow	HHH	5



WELL DONE!



Snowsfields Primary School
Kirby Grove, London, SE1 3TD
020 7525 9065

Robert Browning Primary School
King and Queen Street, London, SE17 1DQ

Tower Bridge Primary School
Fair Street, London, SE1 2AE
020 7407 2959



23.2.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your families are all well and keeping safe.

Last night the Government confirmed that schools will reopen for all pupils on Monday 8th March 2021.

So what does that mean for you?

- School will reopen to all year groups from Nursery to Year 6 on **Monday 8th March.**
- **All children will be expected to attend.** School will be compulsory again and families who don't attend may face fines.
- We will be able to offer Breakfast Club and After School Club from Monday 8th March.
- There will be no school clubs after school.
- Many of the current protocols will remain; hygiene and hand washing, frequent cleaning.
- You must drop off your child **between 8.45am and 9.00am.** This will mean that we can continue to stagger the arrival of all our families.
- Pick up times will be as they were in the autumn term.
- All children will be brought to the playground at the end of the day.
- **Only 1 parent is allowed to drop off/collect their child/ren and face masks should be worn**
- Please make sure you are social distancing from other families and that you follow the instructions from school staff to ensure everyone's safety.
- Visitors and parents/carers cannot enter the site and/or gather at school gates.
- Please continue to phone and email us if you need to share information or ask questions. You will not have the usual daily contact with the teaching staff. We will not be sending home letters etc. and minimising any face to face contact. We will call or email you instead (this includes if your child has an accident).
- All children must wear school uniform.
- All children can wear PE kits to school on their class PE days.
- The children will be allowed to bring in a water bottle and their book bags and bring books home again.
- Whole year group or Phase bubbles will be created as they were last term.
- Where possible children will sit in rows facing the front.
- Children don't have to social distance in their bubbles
Staff will maintain social distancing.
- Staff will continue to take lateral flow Covid tests twice weekly.
- We will be following our normal school timetable and curriculum.
- Lunchtimes will be staggered so only one bubble is in the hall at a time. Tables and benches will then be cleaned before the next bubble enters.
- Playtimes will be staggered and classes will be allocated an area of the playground to use.
- We will plan interventions to help children catch up on the learning they have missed this year.
- If you have been loaned a school Chromebook or router **we will expect these to be returned on Monday 8th March.** Any damages or lost items must be paid for. Please refer to your loan agreement for further information.
- Please return any other school resources on Monday 8th March.

PE DAYS

Tower Bridge and Snowfields

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 4 Year 2	Year 6 Year 3	Year 5 Year 1		

Robert Browning

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 5	Year 4	Year 3	Year 1 Year 6	Reception Year 2

Please call your child's school if you have any questions. We are here to help.

Responding to a suspected case of Coronavirus

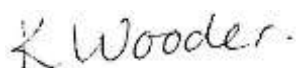
Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell. If they have a high temperature, loss of smell or taste or a new, continuous, dry cough, please let us know and book your child to be tested immediately. There are a list of other symptoms available on the NHS and Government website.

Anyone displaying Coronavirus symptoms in school will be sent home immediately and will need to follow the Government guidelines for self isolation.

- Child with symptoms will be sent home and must arrange a test
- Siblings will be sent home
- Other children in that group can continue to come to school until the test results are back
- If the test is positive, the symptomatic child must self- isolate for 10 days, siblings for 10 days and the same group children and staff for 10 days. We will also notify Public Health England in Southwark for further guidance
- If negative, the child can return when better
- If parents refuse to test their child, we will notify Public Health England in Southwark who will follow this up with the family, GP and complete a risk assessment. They will advise the school on our next steps.

Thank you all again for your continued support. I am sure you will also want to join me in thanking all the staff across our Federation who have continued to work throughout this pandemic and put the needs of our children and families first.

Kind regards,



Kate Wooder

Executive Headteacher

HENRY Healthy Families programme online

Even during this uncertain time, we're still here to help you give your little ones a great start in life.

The HENRY programme is completely **FREE** to join for parents and carers of children aged 0 to 5 years old.

We will send you details of how to join online.



The programme provides everything you need to help your little one get off to a great start.

We cover the 5 following themes across 8 weeks:

- Feeling more confident as a parent
- Physical activities for the little ones
- What children and the whole family eats
- Family lifestyle habits
- Enjoying life as a family

Each week there is a **1 hour live session** and a couple of videos to watch before each session.

You'll also receive a free **toolkit** with lots of fantastic resources, delivered to your home.

The programme is an opportunity to share ideas and experiences with other families in a safe environment!

Programme details

For families with children under 5 living in Southwark. Virtual programmes are starting in April & May 2021 on a variety of days & times - we will send you further details when you contact us.

Please note that each group has a maximum capacity of 6 families so please do get in touch if you would like to join us, in order to save your space and get your toolkit sent out in good time!



Get in touch to sign up now!

Contact Us

To book a place, please email Jennie Crossan on jennifer.crossan@gstt.nhs.uk with your name, child's age, contact number and postcode



Charity number 1132581



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-synching 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-synching 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.



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. Settling the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, 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.



NEW FOR 2020 FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.



SOURCES: www.tiktok.com

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

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