

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we have seen lots of children having the opportunity to do other things in their learning. On Tuesday we saw 6 of our year 4, 5s and 6s go to compete for the Cicero Cup (see below to see how they got on!).

On Wednesday we had 2 trips go out:

1. Year 6 were invited for a day at the University of Northampton for a project called 'Ignite Your Future'. This was an opportunity for them to learn about their options for the future, and to ask questions to current university students. This included a tour of the campus and lots of discussions around different courses and careers they might consider in the future.
2. Miss Bick and Mr Pierson took a group of 12 Year 3 and 4 students to Benham Sports Centre to take part in a variety of Net Wall activities. These activities are based on sports such as tennis, badminton and volleyball. All students were exceptional ambassadors of RFPS and made their teachers very proud. They all got involved and had a great time trying something new.



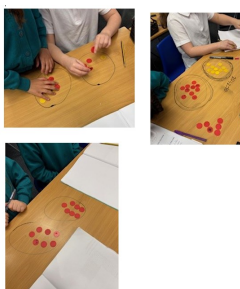
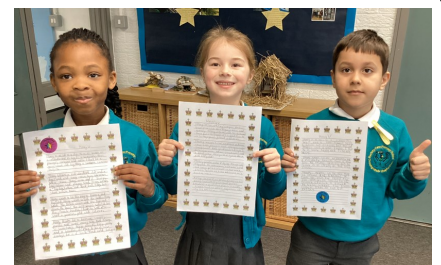
Debate Team

Miss Bick had the privilege of taking 6 students from Year 4, 5 and 6 to a debate competition at the University of Northampton. Miss Bick was extremely impressed with the level of debate, listening, curiosity, rebuttal, questioning and persuasive talk and is so proud of the hard work and time these students have dedicated to this competition. This hard work paid off as they made it into the final and put up a tough competition. Unfortunately, they did not win the final but have gained a place in the semi-final to fight for a place in the National final that will take place in London.



Curriculum

Year 2 — This week, year 2 have been publishing their writing describing Henry V. Here are 3 year 2s (Hiqmat, Emmi-Rose and Jacob) showing their fantastic Henry V writing. They had used lots of adjectives and similes to describe him in lots of detail.



Year 3 — Year 3 have been working extremely hard in their maths lessons this week. We are delving into multiplication and division, looking specifically at grouping and sharing. The students were fantastic at using concrete resources and pictorial representations to show and develop their understanding. Well done Year 3!

Online Home Learning!

Spelling Shed 

1st: Willow 

2nd: Maple 

Harley - Year 6 

Eduard - Year 4 

Eva - Year 3 

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS 


1st: Maple 

2nd: Sycamore 

Autumn (4) - Most minutes 


Irina (5) - Most coins 

Elliot (2) - Most correct answers 

1st: Beech 

2nd: Chestnut 

Leon (6) - Super Star Collector 

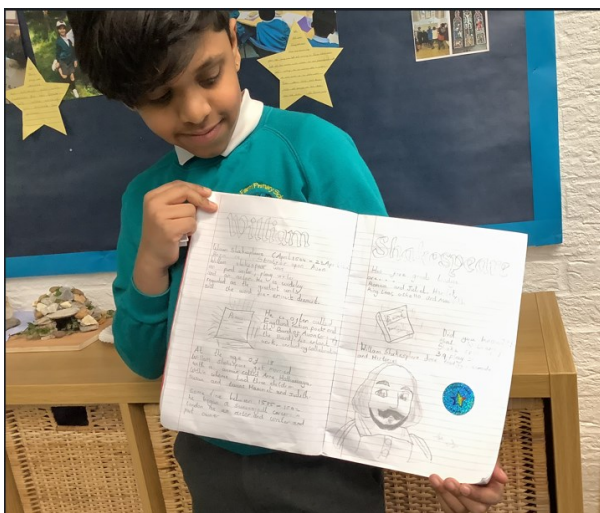
Joey (4) - Most coins 

NUMBOTS 



Eduard has made a model of Delapre Abbey. This is linked to the local history topic in year 4, where they have been learning all about the history of Delapre Abbey. They will even get to visit next half term!

Here is Hunter reading to his friends in year 2. Hunter loves to read and enjoys escaping into a book. He wanted to share this with his friends—and how beautifully he read!



Pranav has produced this brilliant non-chronological report about William Shakespeare. He used a special font for the title to reflect the times, and illustrated it beautifully too. It is lovely to see our learners so inspired by the RSC project.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
Friday 31st January	5	Royal Shakespeare Company day in school

Messages from Mrs Llewelyn (our Family Support Worker and DSL)

Hello parents,

Please can I remind you children can not wear smart watches for safeguarding purposes.

Please see the new attendance law:

If you take your child out of school for a total of **5 days or 10 half day sessions or more over a period of 10 weeks**, the school has a duty to consider a referral to the local authority. The outcome of this could include:-

A penalty notice payable up to £160 fine.

Prosecution under s444 (1) Education act 1996, where if convicted you may be fined up to £1000.

Prosecution under s444 (1) (a) Education Act 1996 where if convicted you may be fined up to £2500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

An Absence Request form will need completing for all Term Time absences. These will only be authorised by the Headteacher if deemed to be a result of exceptional circumstances.



Please can parents not drive into the carpark - this is for staff only. The gate and is very busy at these times.



Miss Walker-Collins —Acting Deputy Headteacher

Mrs. Williams—Executive Headteacher

Friday 25th January 2025

School Contact details: Tel – 01604 4011820

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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