



Ark Brunel Primary Academy Newsletter

25th November 2022

Our
Heart
Values



Honesty



Enthusiasm



Ambition



Resilience



Thought

Dear Ark Brunel Community,

Despite it feeling like a quieter week here, we have still seen Year 6 bounce off on their adventures, plus workshops and performances for parents.

As always, we begin the week with our Rights Respecting Schools Award assembly. This week, we learnt about International Day of People with Disabilities (03.12.22). The global event promotes equality for people with disabilities and celebrates their achievements. It has been celebrated every year since 1981. As a Rights Respecting community, we know that a child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community (Article 23). Speak to your child to see what else they have learnt about International Day of People with Disabilities.

This week's Wednesday parent workshop was led by our colleagues from Place2Be and focussed on parenting support. Next week, Ms Badirkhan will teach us all about the Concrete, Pictorial and Abstract model and using practical materials to understand mathematics. This is the most revolutionary idea in the teaching and learning of maths and I encourage you to come along and see it for yourselves. If you left school believing you couldn't do maths, think again – this is how we should have been taught all those years ago!

Jenner class led our Thursday class assembly this week, which I was sad to have missed out on, but I am told it made our families very proud and smiley. Next week sees Faraday class take their turn on the big stage. I look forward to seeing lots of you there for that one.

As you know, we like to keep the features of the newsletter as consistent as possible and one of those features is our online safety tips. This week's tip focuses on Tik Tok. An app that needs no introduction. Please do have a read and share this with your children.

Looking forward, we have our termly assessments starting next week. Please ensure your child arrives on time every day so that we can ensure all assessments are administered accurately and fairly. The assessments are important as they allow us to accurately track children's progress and continue to support and challenge them on their learning journeys.

Finally, I just want to say thank you to some of our parents (no names mentioned) for your improved efforts in getting your children to school on time. We have seen a marginal reduction in the number of children arriving at 09:00, instead making the effort to arrive five minutes before to ensure they're in before the gate closes. Remember, we start teaching children from 08:30 and we believe that every minute of learning counts. So... if you want to get ahead, get here early!

Finally, to all the football fans reading this – *it's coming home!*

See you on Monday.

Mr Scott

Christmas Giving

As most of you know, historically around Christmas time we have a collection to give to a food bank in our local area. It's even more important now during these difficult times we are experiencing. We would like to extend it this year to include non-food items, such as hats and gloves, scarves and socks, and small gifts which can be given to both children and adults.

We will start collecting on the first Tuesday in December (the 6th) and continue through until we break up on the 16th. Please give your donations to Mr Murphy on the gate in the morning or drop them into the front office, and we will deliver them to our chosen food bank the day after we break up.

If you or anyone you know is struggling during this time, there will be a box in the reception area where you can leave your/their name and we will make sure that you receive a gift box to help you through this festive period.

Thank you in advance for your kind donations to help others in need.

We will be collecting:-

- Tinned or packet soup
- Pasta
- Rice
- Tinned tomatoes / pasta sauce
- Tinned or dried lentils, beans, pulses
- Tinned meat and fish
- Tinned vegetables or fruit
- Tea / coffee / sugar
- UHT milk
- Biscuits
- Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Household items – laundry detergent (powder or liquid), washing up liquid
- Feminine products – sanitary towels, tampons
- Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes, baby food
- Gloves, scarves, hats, socks
- New toys / books for kids
- Small gifts for adults



This week's Value Certificates go to:

DARWIN	Sofia, Adam
FARADAY	Rafaela, Karim
FRY	Leela, Ayonie
JENNER	Chase, Zyann
JOHNSON	Rewan, Isaac
NEWTON	Hadeel, the whole class
PANKHURST	Sajed, Matin
SEACOLE	Sophia, Oscar
SHACKLETON	Faisal, Zafeerah
WILBERFORCE	The whole class
WOLLSTONECRAFT	The whole class

This week's Mathletes are:

FARADAY	Nada
FRY	Ezra
JENNER	Ellie
JOHNSON	Abdullah
NEWTON	Shahad
PANKHURST	Mohamed
SEACOLE	Illius
SHACKLETON	Jahzia
WILBERFORCE	Kayla
WOLLSTONECRAFT	Bahia

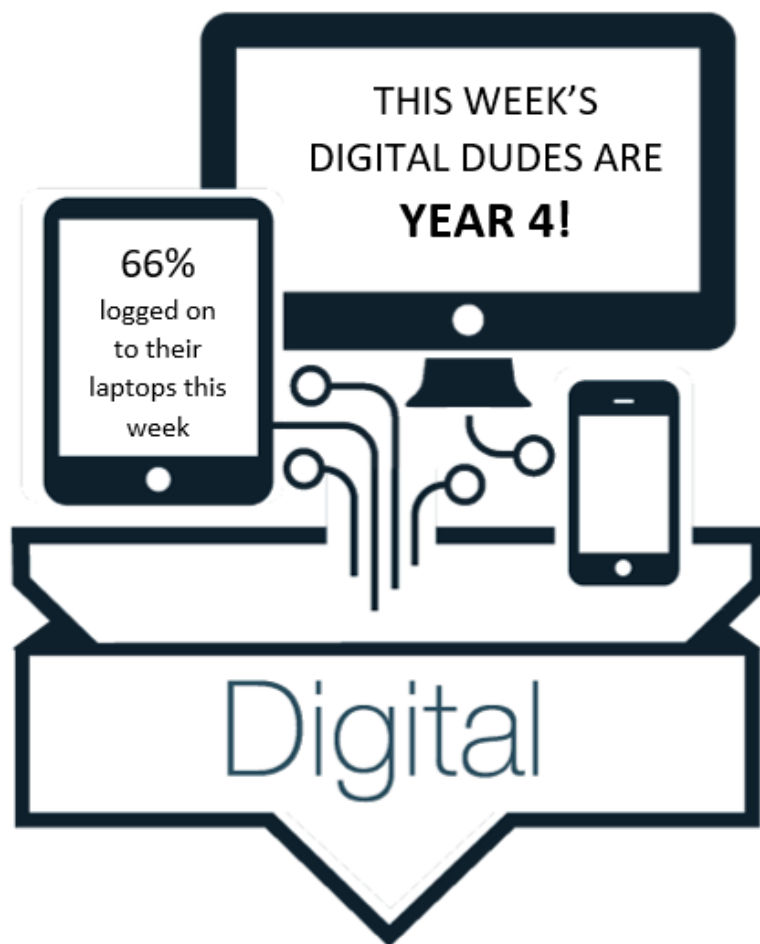


Congratulations to this week's winning Class:

Pankhurst

Total School Points: **13,358**

Which class will win next week?



As part of the Ark Digital Strategy, all pupils from Y3 upwards are entitled to receive a 1:1 Chromebook device to support their learning at home. This strategy aims to improve pupil progress and innovation across the network. At Brunel we will aim for digital devices to be used for:

- Completing homework on Seesaw.
- Engaging in study and qualifications linked to their person interests. Through access to a digital device, children will be able to explore their interest, giving them a greater depth of experience to draw on in their day to day schoolwork.
- Improving opportunities to communicate with their peers.
- Teaching the gaps in their existing knowledge.
- Enabling parents to share in their children's learning more frequently and communicate with the school.

If your child is entitled to a device but you have not yet taken up the offer, please contact the school office if you would now like to receive one.

Overall attendance for this week was 91.09%. Please help us to improve this low level by making sure that your child comes to school EVERY day – we are aiming to reach 96% attendance and can only achieve this if you support us.

Buss	92.86%
Carpenter	92.86%
Darwin	88.67%
Faraday	90.95%
Fry	83.81%
Jenner	97%
Johnson	90.87%
Newton	91.58%
Pankhurst	91.25%
Seacole	85.65%
Shackleton	92.11%
Wilberforce	88.48%
Wollstonecraft	97.78%



Monday 28th Nov:

- Y4 – Winter Sing-along at Westminster Cathedral Hall

Tuesday 29th Nov:

- Y3 Johnson - Museum of London trip

Wednesday 30th Nov:

- All Parent Workshop – CPA, Using Practical Maths

Thursday 1st Dec:

- Y2 Faraday – Class Assembly
- Y3 Jenner - Museum of London trip

Tuesday 6th Dec:

- EYFS Open Class Event for prospective parents (time to be confirmed)

Wednesday 7th Dec:

- KS1 Parent Workshop – Seesaw & Digital Strategy

Thursday 8th Dec:

- Rec Carpenter – Class Assembly
- School Christmas lunch

Friday 9th Dec:

NO Play Centre at Barby. If you use this service, please make alternative arrangements for your child to be collected from school.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

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

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18
CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £3.99 to an eye-watering £89; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 107 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a 15-second daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.



READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.



Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS
National
Online
Safety
#WakeUpWednesday