



Ark Brunel Primary Academy

Newsletter



24th June 2022

Our Heart Values



Honesty



Enthusiam



Ambition



Resilience



Thought

Dear Ark Brunel Community,

What an action-packed week we've had! Year 6 went to Chessington, IntoUniversity visited Years 4 and 6, we had another Open Class morning and of course, we had ourselves a two-day Ofsted inspection. Through it all, I have felt a real coming-together from the community. Welcoming so many of you on Wednesday and Thursday was a wonderful experience for me personally. In addition, I wish to thank all of you who took the time to complete the Ofsted Parent View survey. I will share a few highlights below:

- 100% say that the school support your child if they have learning needs
- 100% say that your child feels safe at this school
- 98% say that your child is happy at this school
- 98% say that the school makes you aware of what your child will learn
- 95% say that the school make sure the pupils are well-behaved

In addition to this glowing feedback, you have also provided lots of warm comments following the two 'see your child learn' Open Class mornings and I am delighted to tell you that we will continue to open our doors for you in the next academic year too. We will aim for different days and times so that more of you are able to access. This links neatly to our weekly Wednesday morning parent workshops too, which will also continue for the remainder of the term, and on into the next academic year. This week, Ms Pepper spoke to our Reception families about the transition into Year 1. Next week, it will be the turn of Nursery families to come and prepare for the transition into Reception.

Also, around the school this week, we have had reports from concerned children about behaviour online. Whilst leadership look into this, I will take the opportunity to remind everyone to be vigilant with regards to age-restrictions using social media. Many social media platforms employ a minimum age of 13. This is because UK law says that anyone under the age of 13 can never legally give consent. If you are in KS2, Ark will have provided a Chromebook suitably restricted to keep users safe online, and with time restrictions. Where possible, I recommend directing students towards using these devices.

With only a month left of the academic calendar, we are pushing hard to improve our attendance to reach our 96% target. Therefore, we will not authorise any holidays either side of the summer break.

You frequently ask me how I am settling in here at Brunel. I repeat to all who do ask (and thank you for asking), that I feel at home here

Have a restful weekend everyone. I know I will.

Mr Scott

Following our class trip to the ballet at the end of the last half-term, Year 5 took part in a ballet workshop last week. The children learned about different ballet positions and moves and then got to try them out. At the end of the workshop the children had the opportunity to try on real costumes that are worn for Ballet performances in the theatre. It's fair to say they had an exciting and energetic experience.



Up, Up and Away

In line with our topic "All Around the World", the Nursery children have enjoyed our "Brunel Airlines" role play areas in class. The children have loved making their own passports, choosing travel destinations from around the world and using role play to check in and check out!





Congratulations to this week's winning class:

Jenner

Total School Points: **15,310**

Which class will win next week?



Monday 27th June:
Ark Music Gala

Wednesday 29th June:
Parent Workshop, Nursery – Starting Reception

Wednesday 29th June:
Y6 Orienteering on Hampstead Heath

Thursday 30th June:
Y2 Trip to Kew Gardens

Thursday 30th June:
Y6 after school cake sale

Friday 1st July:
INSET day, school closed

Overall attendance for this week was 95.1%, which is up from last week, and getting so close to the 96% target rate. Please continue to help us improve our attendance, by ensuring that your child comes to school EVERY day – we can only achieve this if you support us.

Buss	91.8%
Carpenter	89%
Caxton	93.3%
Darwin	98.5%
Dickens	97.8%
Faraday	98%
Fry	89%
Jenner	94.5%
Johnson	94.2%
Newton	95.4%
Pankhurst	97%
Seacole	96.6%
Shackleton	98.1%
Wilberforce	93.9%
Wollstonecraft	97.3%

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

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CENSORED

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&H*!

TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 16s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

