



Village Lane
Whitley
Warrington
WA4 4QH

01606 822991

www.whitleyprimary.co.uk
admin@whitleyprimary.co.uk



Points to Remember No. 4 26.09.25

[Follow us on X @WhitleySchool](#)

 [YouTube](#) [Subscribe to our YouTube](#)

DATES

October

Fri 3rd—Speech and Language Meeting For Parents 2.30 - 3pm

Wed 15th—Parent/ Guardian Evenings, Classes 1, 2, & 3

Thurs 16th—Parent/ Guardian Evenings, Classes 1, 2, & 3

Mon 27th—Start of Half-term week

November

Nov 3rd—School opens for 2nd half of the Autumn Term

December

Wed 10th—NHS Flu Immunisations - details to follow

Thu 11th—Christmas Performance 2pm and 6pm

Wed 17th—Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper day.

Fri 19th—Last day of the Autumn Term

January

Mon 5th—First day of the Spring Term

Term Dates Available on School Website

2025 -2026 —[Click here](#)

Please ensure holidays are booked outside of term times because we teach new content every single day.

2026 Residentials

Y2 & Y3 Tattenhall Residential - Tues 30th June—Wed 1st July

Y4 London Residential - Tues 24th—Wed 25th March

Y6 Min-Y-Don Residential - Mon 6th—Friday 10th July

Details to follow

We're looking forward to our upcoming parents and guardian evenings for the 2025-2026 school year. These meetings are a great opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their teacher and ensure they're settling in well.

Here are the key dates for each class:

- **EVERYONE:** October 15th & 16th 2025
- **Reception & Year 6:** March 4th 2026
- **Years 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5:** June 17th & 18th 2026

Seasonal Reminder: Please bring a coat to school!

The transition into autumn is marked by increasingly changeable weather conditions, with the shift from cool mornings to warmer afternoons being particularly noticeable. The recent departure of the House Martins, which left the area last weekend on their migration to Southern Africa, traditionally signals the true beginning of the autumn season.

In light of these fluctuating temperatures, we kindly request that you ensure your child brings a suitable coat to school each day.

Furthermore, it is imperative that all items of clothing are clearly named. Unnamed items are extremely difficult to track down, which hinders our efforts to return lost property. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.



Are your details up-to-date ?

Please ensure that you provide Emily with your up-to-date contact details, including any new address, email address or phone number.

Interschool Mixed Football Competition



It was a genuine pleasure to accompany our pupils to the first interschool competition of the academic year, a mixed football tournament hosted at Weaverham High School.

The children were fantastic ambassadors for our school, displaying excellent conduct and teamwork. Despite facing strong opposition, they showed great resilience. Their effort was clear in the final game, where they were extremely tough opponents, pushing the other team to the end.

We were immensely proud of their performance. Thank you to Mrs. Downey for completing the necessary paperwork and risk assessments to make this event possible. We eagerly anticipate more competitions throughout the year.

Friends of Whitley School (FoWS)

Lottery

The lottery lets us raise much-needed funds for school to help pay for Athletics, coaches for trips, furniture etc.

It costs just £8 a month for 2 draws per week. If your number pops up, you win £25. If there was no winner the week before you win. If you would like a number and to help support school,

Please contact Hayley Woodward on 07740043151 or

litthayjay@gmail.com

Lottery Winners

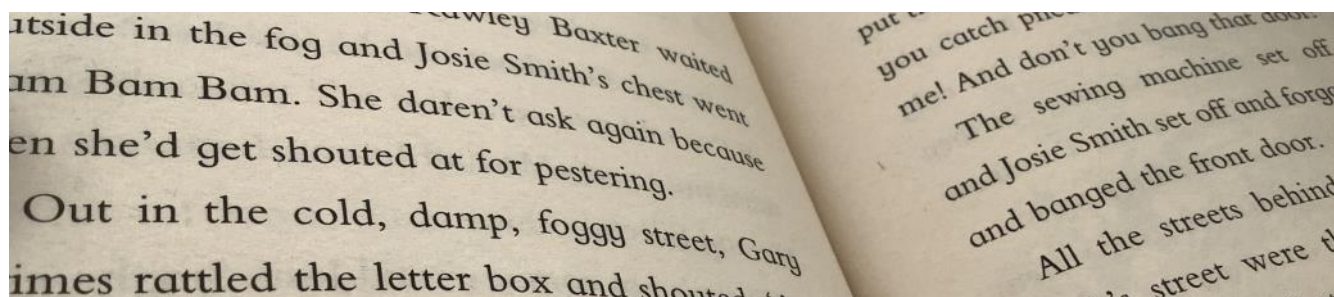
We have lots of spare numbers so please consider supporting this initiative.

Important: Child Collection Arrangements

To ensure safeguarding, if a family member (other than the usual arrangement) or a friend is collecting your child, you must inform the school office by telephone or email.

For regular changes, they can be added to our system. If we have not been notified, your child will not be released until we have spoken to you. Please do not give these messages to staff at morning drop-off, as they may be missed.

Enhancing Reading Achievement



Last week, I had the pleasure of listening to several pupils read from each class. I was highly impressed by the progress demonstrated. To further accelerate this development, we strongly encourage all children to engage in regular reading sessions with an adult at home.

For our Year 2 pupils, consistent home reading is instrumental in ensuring they achieve a reading speed of approximately 95 words per minute and move beyond the overt reliance on phonics as they transition into Year 3.

For older pupils, having an adult hear them read is crucial for developing fluency and deeper comprehension. This dedicated time allows adults to model appropriate responses to punctuation and interpret ambiguous or literary language. Much of the vocabulary encountered in literature, such as "the rasping insects" used to evoke the soundscape of a savanna, may not feature in everyday spoken language. Addressing these linguistic nuances builds general knowledge and strengthens a child's knowledge schema, which is vital for improved comprehension.

While we diligently address these issues through shared reading in school, reading at home acts as a powerful catalyst for vocabulary acquisition and significantly increases the likelihood of cultivating a lifelong love of learning and reaching age related expectations or beyond in Year 6.

To further enrich our resources, the School Parliament will soon be conducting a reading survey to inform the selection and ordering of new books from the Educational Library Service.

Should you require any advice or support regarding home reading practices, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. They are more than willing to assist your efforts and keen to understand any difficulties you may be encountering.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.01.2025