



BARWIC PARADE NEWSLETTER

14TH FEBRUARY 2025
WWW.BARWICPARADE.CO.UK

Dear Parents and Carers,

And just like that it is the end of the half term.

We have, as usual, had a productive time in school, with lots of things going on and with lots of engaging learning taking place. I have been really impressed with all that the children can retain and remember when I have been chatting to them about their learning and it is clear that the children love school and the exciting lessons that are taking place. The children have been making some really great progress, especially in writing, I have used up so many of my head teacher awards.

I do hope that you all get time to relax and have fun over the half term holidays, I have attached a leaflet, sharing when the Inspire Youth bus will be in our area.

Have a fab half term.

Thank you,

Sarah Dixon

SAFEGUARDING

I was alerted this week, that a child in our area was approached via Tik Tok by an unknown person and was potentially being groomed. The child did share this with their parents and the police were involved. I would urge you to ensure that your child is not using app's that are not appropriate and that you check and monitor your child's activity on their technology.

We obviously cover online safety in school and support your child to understand the dangers and what they can and cannot share. Please have a conversation with your child to ensure that they are staying safe.

I have attached a Tik Tok information sheet at the bottom of the newsletter.

Barwic Babies - Mother & Baby Group

I am so pleased at how well attended the Barwic Babies group is getting, it so great to see the younger members of our community come together and socialise.



**Barwic's Babies
Mother & Baby Group**
A safe space to relax and chat
We welcome all
Mum's to be; birth to 2 years old

**Thursday, 23rd January at 9.15am
Thursday, 6th February at 9.15am
Thursday, 27th February at 9.15am
Thursday, 13th March at 9.15am**

Barwic Parade Community Primary School, Petre Avenue, Selby, YO8 8DJ
Email any questions to: barwicbabies@barwicparade.co.uk

Join us for a cup of tea and a natter

BARWIC PANTRY

The Barwic Pantry is a roaring success and I am so pleased that we are able to support our families by providing such an amazing service. It is wonderful to see it grow and succeed and families making use of the food on offer.

PARENTS EVENINGS - 12TH & 13TH MARCH

It's not too late to book your Parents Evening appointment. Please see our Facebook page for all the links.

Staffing

I have already shared with our year 5/6 parents that Mr Morris, who has worked with us previously in Year 3/4 will be making a comeback and joining our Year 5/6 team to cover Mrs Smith's maternity. Mr Morris will be starting on the 24th of February and having a transition period before Mrs Smith leaves to have her baby at Easter.

Mrs Romain has now started her maternity leave and we wish her all the best as she awaits the safe arrival of her newest family member.

CONGRATUALIONS

I am so pleased to share that Mrs Ault has had her second baby, Samuel arrived and the end of January.

I am sure that Mrs Ault and her family are loving all the baby cuddles.

Holiday Activities

Inspire Youth Mobile Youth Club

Find us in **SELBY:**

Thursday 20th February 2025,

11.30–2pm @ Barwic Parade, YO8 8DL

3–5pm @ Selby Leisure Centre, YO8 4BL

Offering various arts, crafts, games, PS5, sports and other activities alongside information, support, a safe space, (and much more!) for young people provided by qualified youth workers.

All welcome
aged 8–14
free to attend



Refreshments
included for all
attending,
see you there!

NO BOOKING NEEDED – JUST TURN UP



www.inspireyouth.uk

**INSPIRE
YOUTH
YORKSHIRE**

For more information contact
info@inspireyouth.uk
07547 287892

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK



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.

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.



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.

