

Oak Meadow Primary School Weekly Newsletter – Friday 5th September 2025: Issue 1



A message from Mr. Lane...

What a fabulous first week back it has been for everyone in the Oak Meadow Family - despite the heavy rainfall we have seen that has certainly signalled the end of the summer holidays! It has been a privilege to see the children return, as well as welcoming our new starters, with smiles and laughter in abundance to see one another again whilst looking forward to the exciting year ahead. It has been wonderful to witness the positive relationships we pride ourselves upon forge so quickly between children and adults that will provide the foundation for exemplary learning in the weeks ahead. We have talked with the children about our ambitions for Full STEAM Ahead and you will have received today a letter for our staff extra-curricular enrichment options/ clubs, all have been set up with the intent to promote pupils' individual character and personal development. I hope you are able to attend our 'Meet the teacher' event after school on Monday to see the exciting learning in store for your child this year whilst allowing you the opportunity to ask teachers any questions you may have. We will also announce our new House Captains on Monday following democratic elections today. I wish all nominees the best of luck, knowing that the majority of Year 6 children have put themselves forward for the prestigious positions. Whatever the outcome children, please know that I am proud of all of you and thankful for your efforts. Take care everyone and enjoy a lovely weekend.

Stars of the Week

The next scheduled celebration assembly will take place on 15th September.



Upcoming dates for the diary

- 8th Sept – Mr Benton's Clubs begin
- 8th Sept – Whole school baseline assessment week
- 8th Sept – Announcement of House Captains
- 8th Sept – Meet the Teacher
- 9th Sept – NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe assembly
- 12th Sept – Roald Dahl Day
- 12th Sept – Year 4 Swimming begins
- 12th Sept – Oak Meadow Parliament meeting with Mr Lane & Miss Billingsley
- 15th Sept – Teaching staff extra-curricular clubs begin
- 18th Sept – National Fitness Day
- 24th Sept – Write with us Parent/Carer Workshops – Y5 & Y6 at 8.50am

Communication

Our doors are always open whenever you need us and the main office number is 01902 558517.

The school email address is oakmeadowprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Also remember to check the school website and follow us on 'X' [@oakmeadow12](https://twitter.com/oakmeadow12)

Safeguarding Information

If you have any concerns about a child, please contact one of our designated safeguarding leaders (DSL):

Mr. Lane (Head of School).

Miss. Billingsley (Deputy Headteacher).
Mr. Hawkins (Assistant Headteacher).
Mrs. Worrallo (Assistant Headteacher).
Miss. Tomlinson (EYFS/KS1 SENDCo).

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...



Attendance and Punctuality

Everyday
COUNTS!

Thank you for making sure your child is in school every day and on time. Remember that our minimum attendance target for all children is **96%**.

Everyday
COUNTS!

Attending school **every day** impacts significantly on your child's learning and their attainment. Please see the table below that shows the number of lessons missed as the attendance rate falls.

Every day counts over the school year:

Attendance during the school year	Equals this number of days absent	Meaning that approximately this number of lessons have been missed
95%	9 days	50 lessons!
90%	19 days	100 lessons!
85%	29 days	150 lessons!

Make sure your child is an **Oak Meadow attendance H.E.R.O** (Here, Every day, Ready and On Time) by arriving between 8:35 and 8:45am each morning.

Every minute counts over the school year:

5 minutes late each day = **3 days lost!**
 10 minutes late each day = **6.5 days lost!**
 15 minutes late each day = **10 days lost!**
 20 minutes late each day = **13 days lost!**
 30 minutes late each day = **19 days lost!**

Class Attendance for this week

Reception and Key Stage 1

RB	92%
RE	100%
1B	83.3%
1TW	98.9%
2B	95.6%
2H	96.3%

Attendance HERO bear winners are class RE – well done!



Key Stage 2

3H	90%
3J	100%
4B	95.6%
4J	90.8%
5H	97.8%
5T	92.7%
6H	95.7%
6W	96.7%

Attendance HERO bear winners are class 3J – well done!



Our combined whole school attendance for this week was...

94.6%

Everyday
COUNTS!

From tiny acorns **mighty oaks** grow...



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-18s (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>

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