



# PARK HILL JUNIOR SCHOOL

Stanhope Road, Croydon, CR0 5NS Tel: 020 8686 8623

RESPECTFUL - KIND - RESILIENT - RIGOROUS - ASPIRATIONAL



3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping safe and listening to ways you can keep yourselves and your family safe during this period.

These are unfamiliar times for all of us and I am pleased to say we are working our way through it together successfully. Feedback about the use of the google classrooms and online platforms has been positive and the teachers have enjoyed interacting with as many children as possible to ensure their learning continues - thank you parents and carers for working with us on this.

Park Hill Junior School will continue to be open to critical workers' children and vulnerable children on our list. We are doing our best to offer as many booked places as we can to enable the learning environment to be safe. This is also highly dependent on staffing. At this point I want you to join me in saying thank you to all our staff at Park Hill Junior School, who are leaving their families and making it in to work to ensure the children at school are safely cared for.

Remember your children are safer at home with you and if you do not need to send them in, please do not.

Meanwhile, please continue to watch out for our emails, letters and other communication with you. You can always send an email to the office with any queries and we will do our best to contact you as soon as we possibly can.

We will not be setting classroom work for the children over the Easter holidays but will set our usual holiday home learning projects and other suggested online learning activities to keep them occupied.

Have a great break over the Easter period....our next newsletter will be in May.

Best wishes to you and your families from all at Park Hill Junior School.

**Mrs Ann Pratt**

## CONTACTING US DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

The school office is manned by staff working remotely and in school. If you have a query for a member of staff, please drop them an e-mail via the school office address and it will be forwarded to the member of staff concerned.

[office@parkhill-jun.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:office@parkhill-jun.croydon.sch.uk)

If your e-mail relates to technical problems with Google Classrooms, please use the following e-mail address:

[it@phjs.foliotrust.uk](mailto:it@phjs.foliotrust.uk)

If you have concerns about a child and you would like to chat to our Safeguarding Lead, please use the following e-mail address:

[safeguarding@phjs.foliotrust.uk](mailto:safeguarding@phjs.foliotrust.uk)

## PARENT GYM DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

Parent Gym have launched a new Facebook group: 'Parent Gym: parenting through uncertainty': <https://bit.ly/3bCij7D>

This is **open to all parents**, not only those who have completed a Parent Gym programme. It is a space for parents to come together to share stories, thoughts, tips and ideas on how we are managing to adjust to this challenging period in our lives.

## GOOGLE CLASSROOMS

Our Google Classrooms are closed over the Easter break! Please enjoy some downtime exploring other activities with your children, so that when they come back to their learning on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, they will know it's school time.

## SUMMER TERM 2020

### Diary Dates

At this time, we are unable to confirm whether any planned events for the summer term will be able to go ahead.

Wherever possible we will postpone events so that the children don't miss out. Inevitably some events will have to be cancelled.

As soon as we receive clarification, we will be in touch.

## SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEME

We hope that school will re-open in the summer term. If it does, we will operate the holiday play scheme as usual over the summer break between 8am and 6pm.

The day is split into sessions of 'free play,' 'structured activities such as arts and crafts and sports sessions. Children who attend are required to bring a packed lunch. However, children who remain all day are offered a light snack after 4pm.

For further details, or to book a place, please contact Helen McCarthy on 07960610393. Places are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

## WONDERING HOW TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT CORONAVIRUS AND HOW TO REASSURE THEM?

There is lots of child-friendly information and advice here, including how to cope with school being closed and what to do if you're feeling anxious: [www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/](http://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/) and there are also some reassuring video clips and articles here: [www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51204456](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51204456)

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your situation has changed and you are now in receipt of benefits such as Universal Credit, your child may now be eligible to receive Free School Meals. During school closure these meals are being provided in the form of food parcels or supermarket vouchers. To find out whether you could be eligible, please visit: [www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/free-school-meals](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/free-school-meals)

### TikTok

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets users create, share, and view user created videos. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with -filters, emojis and stickers.

TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. Its age restriction is 12, because of the dangers children face from other users, who may watch their videos or contact them online.



Please see more information about TikTok at the end of this newsletter and advice on how to keep your child safe from predators online.

### Borrowbox

Borrowbox is a collection of almost 2,000 e-books and 700 e-audiobooks that you can read or listen to on your smartphone, tablet, computer or MP3 player. You can borrow up to three e-book titles and three e-audiobook titles at a time for up to 21 days. You can also reserve titles that are on loan. You can access BorrowBox through the free app on your Apple, Android, or Kindle Fire device or use a media player on your computer.



Log in to [BorrowBox](http://BorrowBox) using your library barcode number and PIN.

To join a Croydon library: [www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/join-the-library/joining-borrowing](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/join-the-library/joining-borrowing)

## WRITING LAUREATES

### Thank you and well done to our outgoing Writing Laureates:

Aisha 3I	Ava 5A	Abhiram 3P	Aditi 5F
Eddy 3M	Neil 5H	Neha 4K	Madison 6G
Krish 4DT	Millie 6E	Eva 4G	Aarush 6M

### Congratulations to our new Writing Laureates:

Arya 3I	Vivaan 5A	Vishruth 3P	Nihal 5F
Meera 3M	Mantresh 5H	Viktorija 4K	Sarah 6G
Anu 4DT	Mariya 6E	Inba 4G	Jessica 6M

## TT ROCKSTARS – THE BATTLE!

Throughout this week the TT Rockstars battle has raged between PHJS Staff and Pupils! This time it was a victory for the Pupils and we congratulate them.

Many of the Staff are very upset about this and have requested a re-match. **WATCH THIS SPACE!!!**



## PANTOMIME VISITS PARK HILL JUNIORS!

A Highlight of the PHJS calendar took place on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of March when M&M productions performed *The Jungle Book*. As always, it was an impressive production with its vivid set designs and atmospheric lighting and sound effects and of course amazing acting and puppetry. There was also plenty of audience participation, which the children thoroughly enjoyed "It's better than the movie," was a comment made by several children after the show.

This is a wonderful experience for the children as it gives them the opportunity to enjoy the magic of theatre as a shared experience.

Please help us keep precious events like this alive for your children. If you have not yet had the opportunity to pay for Book Week the account is still open on Parent Pay. The suggested donation is £8 per family but please donate whatever you can afford.

## FOLIO TRUST PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Three of our Year 6 pupils: Atharv, Luca and Michelle recently took part in the first ever Folio Trust Public Speaking Competition against two other schools. The event took place at Wallington County Grammar School for Boys. It was a challenging experience and they were amazing!

Each child had to speak in front of an audience of pupils and teachers from WCGSB for three minutes, they then had to answer five questions from the audience.

Many teachers and pupils commented on how expertly and fluently our three pupils spoke and how well they handled the questions from the floor. This is made all the more impressive by the fact that they were the only primary school children taking part!

Thank you Luca, Michelle and Atharv, Park Hill Juniors are very proud of you.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Please ensure we have your up to date contact details. We will update you by text, phone, e-mail and Twitter whilst school is closed. Please remember to share any new phone numbers or e-mail addresses with us. Thank you.





TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

# TIKTOK



## MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.



## INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.



## TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities – social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.



## ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.



## ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.



## IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



# Safety Tips For Parents



## TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



## USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



## ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



## EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.



## LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



## MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.



## Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



## \*NEW FOR 2020\* FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.



SOURCES: [www.tiktok.com](http://www.tiktok.com)

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

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