



Shanklea Primary School

"We provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment where children recognise and achieve their fullest potential"

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass Northumberland is an initiative which enhances communication between the police and schools where a child is at risk from domestic abuse. Its principal purpose is to ensure schools have more information to support safeguarding of children. By knowing that the child has had an experience, the school is in a better position to understand and be supportive of the child's needs and possible behaviours.

However, it 'encompasses' other areas of communication and education too. A police liaison officer is scheduled to visit Shanklea on **Thursday 23rd January 2020, 1.30pm** to discuss **'Emotions and Empathy'** with Year 4 and 5 children in a sympathetic environment.

Helping children to develop a strong sense of empathy is so important and beneficial because:

- it helps them to build a sense of security and stronger relationships with other children and educators, positioning them well for learning.
- it encourages tolerance and acceptance of others
- it promotes good mental health

We are sure the Year 4 and 5 children will find this a very engaging and informative experience.

EYFS and KS1 Author Visit



Next week, we are lucky to have **Alan Windram** visiting Shanklea Primary School. Alan is a talented singer-songwriter and is the author of the lovable **'Mac and Bob'** series of picture books, based on the character he plays in the sell-out Sticky Kids theatre show.

Sticky Ends is a collection of original comic cautionary stories and songs for modern children aged 5+. Full of music and chances to join in, the story-telling session is perfect for children to enjoy together. Never again will your child play too many computer games, demand ice-cream daily or refuse to go to bed after watching Sticky Ends...maybe....!

Last week's attendance

Classes of the week with **100%** attendance are **BD1/2** and **RB4/5**

Well done
Years 4 and 5

Year Group	Average Attendance
Reception	91.7
1/2	99.4
3	98.9
4/5	99.6
6	96.7



Friends of Shanklea

Our superb PTFA, **Friends of Shanklea**, will be holding its next meeting on **Tuesday 21st January at 3.30pm**, at Shanklea Primary School. The meeting is an opportunity to reflect on activity and achievements over the last year and to make and share plans for the future.

All parents/carers are members of Friends of Shanklea and this meeting is a great chance to meet others and see what goes on. We'd love to see you and get to know you better. Please keep an eye out for further communications from us via Facebook.

At the meeting we plan to share with you some ideas for the coming year:

- Continue to fund Christmas theatre experiences
- Extend and update the adventure playground
- Continue to fund **'in-school experiences'** that enrich learning such as World Book Day theatre workshops and Science week expert led activities and to also continue to fund our Year 6 Leavers Disco and to subsidise their year books.
- To subsidise some of the school trips, e.g. supporting with transport costs, significantly reducing the cost of the trips to parents/ carers
- Install further multimedia technology for the school so that there is an up to date and simple solution for sound and image projection – this will be beneficial for assemblies, shows, presentations to parents and when external speakers visit the children.

Gift Amnesty

Parents, staff and friends!

Can you help us raise funds for the school this year?

If you received any gifts at Christmas or on a birthday that aren't quite to your taste (or you got two of the same) we'd love any donations that can be used as prizes or at future events.

Where to drop them off

Please hand donations in at the School Office.

Thank you!

From The Friends of Shanklea



Parentkind
Member Association



Shanklea Primary School

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What's happening in the next few weeks?

Tuesday 21 January 2020	10am Alan Windram Author Scottish Book Trust for EYFS & KS1 2.30pm Years 4 and 5 parents/carers workshop 3.30pm Friends of Shanklea meeting, everyone welcome
Wednesday 22 January 2020	9 – 10am Little Monkeys Toddler group
Thursday 23 January	Year 4 and 5 Emotions and Empathy Drop-in
Friday 24 January 2020	Northumberland Dementia Day - Wear Denim—small cash donations welcome
Tuesday 28 January 2020	Year 4/5 Mayan Workshop Year 6 Able Maths Day 3.30-6.00pm Year 6 Parent Consultations
Wednesday, 29 January 2020	9-10am Little Monkeys Toddler group 2.45pm Mrs Baxter's Year 4/5 Class Assembly. Parents and carers most welcome 3.30-6.00pm Year 6 Parent Consultations
Thursday, 30 January 2020	School used as polling station for Cramlington Planning Referendum but school will stay open Year 6 Mayan workshop First Lego League Competition Day Sage Gosforth 10 Y5 children
Friday 31 January 2020	Music Tuition in Mobile Classroom, 9am – 3pm Year 4/5 Mayan workshop

Out of School Club



It has been another fabulous week at OOSC. The children have been finding out about the importance of different types of communication. They have learnt about sign language and Makaton and have completed a series of Maths and English challenges.

Both Breakfast and Out of School Clubs are very popular. The children love the interesting and challenging activities on offer and, of course, being with their friends.

Bookings are made on a monthly basis. The cut-off date for February bookings is **Tuesday 28th January**. February bookings that need to be made after this date will need to be made through the Office and will incur a £2 late booking fee. Bookings and payments may be made on the School Gateway. Paper booking forms are also available from outside the office.



Year 6 Edinburgh Trip

Parents and carers of Year 6 children who will be going on the Edinburgh Residential visit are reminded that the next instalment on the payment plan is due on **31st January 2020**. Thank you

Donations welcomed

Friends of Shanklea would welcome any donations that could be used as prizes for future events. Thank you as always for your support.



Year 4 and 5 Parent/Carer Workshop

Parents and carers of children in Years 4 and 5 are invited to come along to attend a workshop on supporting children with English and Maths on **Tuesday 21st January** at **2.30pm**

Firefighters Charity

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our charity collection. As you can see from the certificate below, we had a magnificent response resulting in **£24.30** funds for school and **£6.48** for the Firefighters Charity. Thank you so much.



Congratulations!!

Shanklea Primary School

Collected

81Kg

You have raised

£24.30

&

£6.48

Will be donated to





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.

