

ULLESTHORPE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WILLOW CLASS FOCUS

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY 2025

WWW.ULLESTHORPE.LEICS.SCH.UK

HEAD OF SCHOOL

MRS J. ALLEN

A belated Happy New Year 2025!

Here at Ullesthorpe School, we have made a superb start to the new calendar year by re-focusing on our school vision statement: 'Learn together, Grow together, Shine forever'. The Christian value in focus for this half term is 'Friendship' and we are truly seeing this value in action: through the kind, helpful and good choices that our children make every day. In our Friday worship assemblies we have enjoyed celebrating the many different ways in which our community are shining their light.

It has been delightful to see how the youngest members of our school community - those in Willow Class - have grown and flourished with the nurturing of our fantastic school staff and the friendly buddying of our older students. Read on to find out more about Willow Class learning and enrichment.

Congratulations to those children who have been Stars of the Week this month:

Well done to them all!

Please do feel free to come and speak with me at the school gates, or make an appointment through the school office.



UPCOMING DATES

Y6 SATs Info. Evening:

Thurs. 6th Feb. 4:45 -
5:30pm

Parents Evenings:

Tues 11th Feb. 3:30-5:30

Thurs 13th Feb. 4-7pm

Half Term Break:

Mon. 17th February to
Fri. 21st February 2025.

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WILLOW CLASS MRS HARTLEY



Through our topic '**Little Explorers**', the children have been learning all about the polar regions. First, they listened carefully to the story of 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers, which is about a poor lost penguin. Using maps, globes and information books, the children located his home, Antarctica. The children then continued their research, finding answers to their questions about penguins. They now know what penguins eat, how they keep warm and travel about on the snow and ice. They wrote brilliant facts about what they have learnt too! Later in the week, we started the amazing story of 'Immi' by Karin Little. This book took the children to the North Pole. They were able to imagine what it might be like to travel to the Arctic. Our little explorers got dressed ready for their cold expedition, in waterproofs and woollies, on a mission to find the polar bears! As part of our early science work, they have also had fun investigating ice and melting. The children used salt and hot water to help save the trapped animals quickly. What a super week of learning through stories and play!



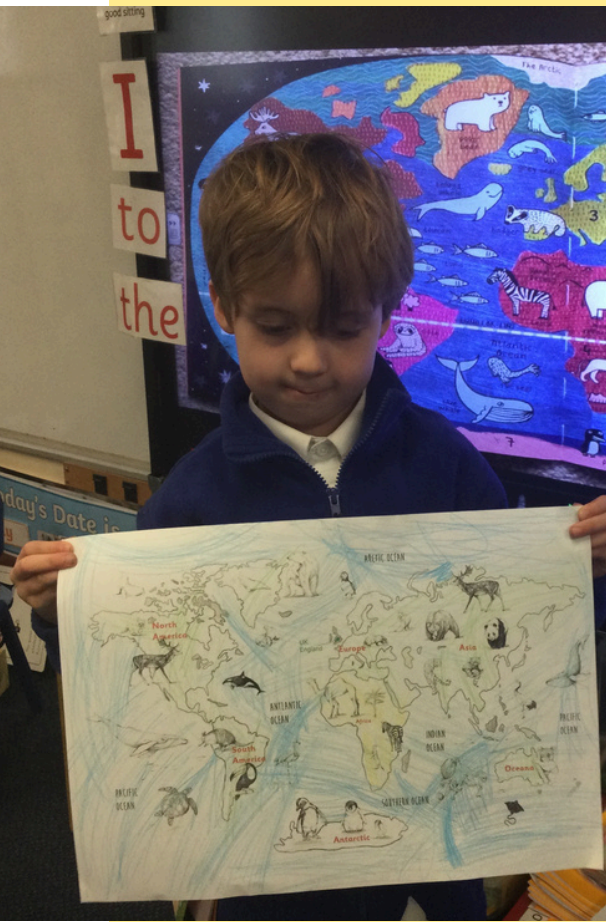
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WILLOW CLASS PHOTOS



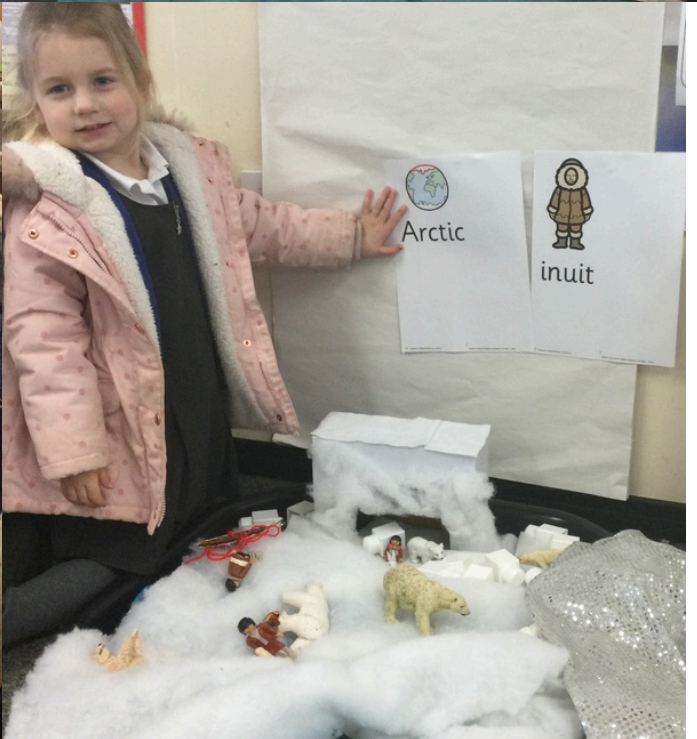
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WILLOW CLASS PHOTOS



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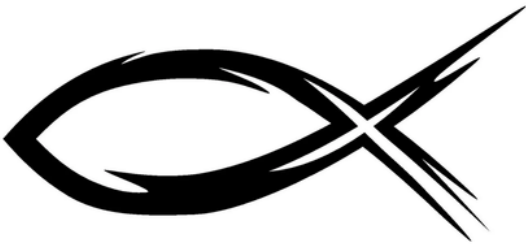
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MESSY CHURCH

Yesterday morning, here at Ullesthorpe CE Primary School we were, as always, delighted to welcome back Rev Sister Liz and members of our local Church community to share their Messy Church activities with our Year 1-Year 6 children.

The children enjoyed taking part in a variety of fun and creative, spiritual and reflective activities which taught us more about key 'ships' of the Christian faith: **Worship, Stewardship, Discipleship and Fellowship**. We were very impressed by their skilful making (such as the beaded ICHTHUS fish) but even more so by the deep understanding and reflections shared by our children: we could all learn much from their understanding of **Stewardship** of the Earth, I'm sure! We then gathered together after the carousel of activities for an interactive worship assembly and prayers.



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**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

ENCOURAGING ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CHECK-IN

**SUPERBLY WELL DONE TO THOSE WITH 100%
ATTENDANCE!**

Class:	Last Week: %	This Week: %
Willow	91	98
Maple	94	92
Birch	94	97
Oak	97	93
Year Group:		
EYFS	91	98
Year 1	99	97
Year 2	89	88
Year 3	98	96
Year 4	91	98
Year 5	100	93
Year 6	94	93
School Overall (this year):	94.9%	National Average: 94.5%

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.



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.



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.



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.



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