

Spring Term Number 02  
 Week ending  
 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025



Dear Parents and Governors

Learn – Achieve – Enjoy

“High levels of pastoral support at the heart of the school community” (Ofsted, April 2024)

**KEY DATES**

DATE	EVENT
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	School Nursing in school to conduct height & weight checks for Rec & Y6
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	School Nursing in school to conduct vision screening for Rec.
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9am - Reception Class Assembly followed by tea & coffee in our Studio
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Syliva Young Early Years Specialist in Coffee Morning
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Y1 Class Trip to the London Eye
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Non-Uniform day in return for Mothers Day gifts.
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Winning Hummingbird Team non-uniform day

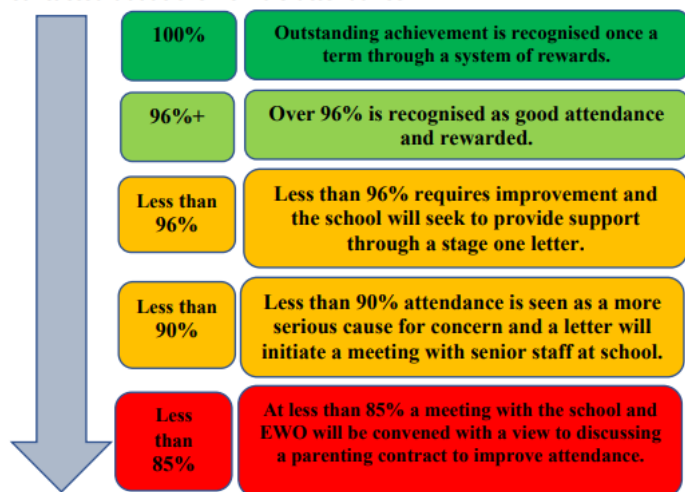
**HEADTEACHER’S MESSAGE**

We have been celebrating some wonderful attendance this week. In our celebration assembly, **112 children** received a certificate for having attendance 97%+ for the Autumn term. Of these children, **53 achieved 100%** which is a remarkable result! Gold class had the best overall attendance for the Autumn term at 98% but were closely followed by Green with 97%, Blue/Purple/Silver all had 96%!

The winners of our termly attendance raffle (all children with 97%+ are entered into the raffle) were: Emily T, Boe, Jack, Gracie, Borislav. Congratulations!

I have met with the PLT (Pupil Leadership team) this week – Nomana, Aurora, Matthew and Jaheim – to discuss some great ideas for rewarding attendance and punctuality. They will be sharing more details about our Reward Wheel next week. Attending school every day, and on time, gives your child the best chance of a good education.

The table below sets out the attendance targets and at what stage parents/carers will be contacted about their child's attendance.



Attendance during one school year	Equivalent days	Equivalent sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent lessons missed
95%	9 days	18 sessions	1.4 weeks	45 lessons
90%	19 days	38 sessions	3.4 weeks	95 lessons
85%	29 days	58 sessions	5.4 weeks	145 lessons
80%	36 days	72 sessions	7.1 weeks	180 lessons
75%	48 days	96 sessions	9.3 weeks	240 lessons



## VOLUNTEERS TO ATTEND COMPETITIVE SPORTS EVENTS

We are very proud of the fact we have a PLATINUM Sports achievement for commitment and involvement in inter-school sporting competitions. However, recently we have had to pull out of some of the competitions as we have not been able to staff the trips. Would you like to be on our list of sports volunteers? Most of the events are



on a Friday with a handful on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. Please see Mrs Freeman in the office if this is something you would be interested in. Thank you

### HUMMINGBIRD WINNERS – Well done!

- BRONZE:** Ellie C, James S
- HUMMINGBIRD:** Charlotte
- BRONZE 2:** Hannah
- SILVER 2:** Jaheim
- GOLD 2:** Arthur
- PLATINUM 2:** Adrian
- BRONZE 3:** Cleo



### READING KINDLE WINNERS

Every child in Y1-Y6 who has 5 adult signatures Wednesday to Wednesday, has their name entered into a raffle. Three winners are selected in assembly to win our Kindles for a week. This week's winners are:

- **Y1 & Y2 – Ellie**
- **Y3 & Y4 – Laura**
- **Y5 & Y6 – Kyran**

*Well done everyone and keep reading! Mrs Danaher, Literacy Leader*



### High 5 of the Week

#### Learner of the week

Class	Name	Reason
Yellow	Anaya Yousaf	for trying so hard with her writing this week. Well Done Anaya!
Red	Thasvin Pulavar	for talking about his holidays during the Literacy lesson. Well done, Thasvin!
Green	Brian Cheng	For an excellent drawing of a turtle and making a great prediction.
Blue	Aleksandra Zajkowska	For working hard at learning independently in Mathematics this week.
Purple	Ethan Busby	For working hard in all lessons - a fantastic start!
Silver	Aaban Basharat	For making a very big effort to participate in teaching inputs.
Gold	Fawad Ahmed	for a consistently high effort and standard of work in all subjects!

Class	Name	Reason
Yellow Class	Leja Petrullionyte	Resilience-when building the Little Pigs House. Well Done Leja.
Red Class	Jack Ridsdale	Teamwork - always answering questions during lessons. Well done, Jack!
Green Class	James Brooks	Resilience- For being very brave and returning to school and being excited and ready to learn.
Blue Class	Kyra Henderson	For her brave return to school after a long break.
Purple Class	Amy-Grace Collins	Challenge - aiming high in all lessons. Well Done!
Silver Class	Aayan Basharat	Respect - for asking questions to adults about their holidays.
Gold Class	Faraz Babar	Challenge - shown in French when learning and practising new vocabulary.

## MATHS TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS CHAMPIONS

Each week in assembly, we celebrate children on the TT Rockstars leaders' board. Children in Year 2-6 compete in this competition. **All children In Y2-6 are expected to complete a minimum of 30 minuter PER week and this is checked every Wednesday ready for our celebration assembly on Thursday.** This week's winners are:

Improved Speed	Name
1 <sup>st</sup>	Laura
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Maisie
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Adam M

Improved Accuracy	Name
1 <sup>st</sup>	Freddie
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Roman
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Elsie

Most Correct Answers:	Name
1 <sup>st</sup>	Aurora
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Othman
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Anayah



Well done everyone! **Mrs Green, Maths Learning Leader**

## COFFEE MORNING

Slyvia Young an Early Years Specialist from Merton will be in our Coffee Morning on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan to answer any questions you may have or to just have a friendly chat.

## COLD WEATHER

As the weather turns colder and wetter, our playground and field can get quite muddy but outdoor play remains an important part of the day for our children. All children must come to school with a warm coat – **NO COAT NO PLAY!**



We also recommend that children bring a pair of wellies or a change of shoes to keep on their peg. These should be brought in a clearly labeled carrier bag, as we don't have space to store loose items.

Thank you for your support in keeping our children ready for all-weather play!

## MESSAGES TO THE OFFICE

We would like to remind parents that if there are ANY changes to your child's collection arrangements, these need to be communicated with the office as early as possible. Often there is only one admin staff member in the office after lunchtime. **After 3pm, any messages cannot be guaranteed to be with the class teacher before 3.10pm.**

## MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones should not be used on school grounds. This especially includes taking photos and filming as it is a safeguarding concern. Please ensure your phone is kept out of sight while you are on the premises.

## APPOINTMENTS

If your child has a medical appointment, or has any other commitment during school hours, please provide evidence of this **before** the event. Please do not inform us or send in the letter on the day of the event. We need time to update the register, notify staff, and adjust school meal plans accordingly.

All routine GP and Dental appointments will not be authorised and need to be made out of school hours.

Thank you for your understanding.

## CONGRATULATIONS

A huge congratulations to Mrs. Gurung, the parent of Sagun Gurung, for her incredible courage in walking across hot coals and raising over £3200 for St. Raphael's. What an outstanding achievement!



## Braving the heat for the Hospice

Our fearless supporters faced the flames at our Firewalk fundraiser, walking across blazing embers to raise over £14,000 for the Hospice.

The fiery event was held at the Hospice on Guy Fawkes night and was run by one of Europe's leading Firewalk instructors, Cliff Mann. Specialist training was held on the night, designed to help inspire our brave participants to conquer the coals. A brilliant crowd of friends, families and colleagues cheered on our 28 firewalkers – including our wonderful Hospice Housekeeper, Kala, who braved the coals and raised over **£3,200**.

*“I could never have imagined taking on a challenge like this and raising vital funds in the process. I loved every minute. This was my way to give back to the Hospice that I'm proud to work for, a charity that the community really relies on.”* – Kala

Want to take on a challenge or create your very own fundraiser? Find out more at [straphaels.org.uk/events](http://straphaels.org.uk/events)



## SCOOTERS

Please do not let your child scooter at high speed outside the school gates or on the footpath. Our school is located near a busy main road, and the area is crowded with children and families during drop-off and pick-up times. Unfortunately, there have been instances of children falling off their scooters or colliding with others and parked cars, which poses a serious safety risk. Please help us ensure everyone's safety. Thank you for your cooperation!

## NO DOGS IN SCHOOL

No dogs, even carried ones, are allowed on school premises or near any entrances.

## TISSUES

As the weather gets colder and runny noses make their way into school, we are in need of extra tissues. If you are able to donate a box for your child's class, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!



## MORDEN MARVELS



# JOIN THE MORDEN MARVELS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Looking for a fun way to spend your afternoons?

Join **Morden Marvels**, where every day brings new adventures!

- **Creative Activities:** Dive into arts, crafts, and hands-on projects.
- **Games and Sports:** Enjoy a variety of fun games and activities.
- **Outdoor Fun:** Get active with exciting outdoor play.
- **Hot snack and fruit provided.**

*Extra time for you!*

**While your kids have a great time, you can take a moment for yourself or help with work commitments.**

### Payment Options are:

- **£15.50 per session until 6pm.**
- **£17.00 per session for all ad-hoc bookings (subject to availability)**

Please email [mordenmarvels@morden.merton.sch.uk](mailto:mordenmarvels@morden.merton.sch.uk) for more information or to book.



## SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

Join our school lottery and help raise funds for our school while getting the chance to win **£25,000!** It's quick and easy to sign up, and you can opt out at any time.

For more information, please contact **Mrs. Freeman.**



# WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

Buy your tickets now to  
help our fundraising

- Tickets cost just £1
- All profits go to our school and our children
- Local cash prize every week
- Chance to win the £25,000 jackpot!



To start supporting, visit:



## CLUBS IN SCHOOL

# CLUBS AFTER SCHOOL

### MONDAY

- **Sketchbook Club** with Mrs. Barbour (Y3–Y6)

### TUESDAY

- **Tuesday Club** with Mr. Smith (Y1–Y2)
- **Tennis Club** (Rec–Y6) – Run by Multisports4U.  
Contact directly: [www.multisports4all.co.uk](http://www.multisports4all.co.uk)

### WEDNESDAY

- **Boccia** with Mr. Smith (Y3–Y4)
- **Gymnastics Club** – Run by Community Advantages. Contact directly: [info@ca-sportscoaching.co.uk](mailto:info@ca-sportscoaching.co.uk)

### THURSDAY

- **Basketball** with Mr. Smith (Y1–Y6) – **FULL**
- **Dance Club** with Nuffield Health (Y3–Y6)

### FRIDAY

- **Comet Drama Club** (Rec–Y6) – Contact directly:  
[www.cometdrama.co.uk/sign-up](http://www.cometdrama.co.uk/sign-up)

We Have Been Recognised As The Best Children's Sports Coaching Provider in Surrey  
<https://www.sme-news.co.uk/winners/community-advantages-sports-coaching/>

# FOOTBALL ACADEMY

[www.ca-sportscoaching.co.uk](http://www.ca-sportscoaching.co.uk)

Providing football coaching for over 15 years

**EVERY SATURDAY MORNING**  
**10.30AM - 12.00PM**

St Dunstan's Primary School,  
Anne Boleyn's Walk, Sutton, SM3 8DF

**Boys and Girls**  
from U5 - U11 (Rec - Year 6)

- Ball Skills
- Fun Games
- Matches

COMMUNITY ADVANTAGES

# Comet

drama

Does your child have a flare for the Performing Arts?

After much success and feedback for her work during the HAF programme during the half terms, Lucy wants to continue to encourage the passion for drama and acting right here in our very own Morden Primary School.

If you have been for the taster and haven't signed up, what are you waiting for!? If not, why not sign up your child for the course and maybe it might be their name in lights performing in the next Wimbledon Theatre Panto!

Join Lucy from Comet Drama at her afterschool club held here at Morden Primary School starting

At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

**13+**  
Children between 13 and 17 years old

**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 it's a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the algorithm potentially shows 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.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**  
With over 1.3 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 false 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.

**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 females dying, severely injuring 16 and over the tragic deaths of their children.

**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 18-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – as you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material, hoping how they see the world.

**ADDICTIVE DESIGN**  
With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2021, UK children spent an average of 87 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.

**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 £3.99 to an eye-opening £75, while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2021. 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.

**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 chance 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. Send them links using TikTok for more. 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 our reference list on [our guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2022](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2022)

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***P. Blow, Headteacher***