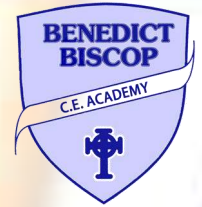


Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



February 2020

Dates for your diary:



W/C 10th February - Internet Safety Week

Monday 10th February - ICE CATS parents meetings (more info inside)

Wednesday 12th February - Spring PTFA Disco (more info below)

Thursday 13th February - YR 5 Derwent Hill Meeting 4.45pm

W/C 17th February - Half Term Holiday

W/C 24th February - Book Fayre

Tuesday 3rd March - Year 1 Trip to Beamish Open Air Museum (letter to follow)

Wednesday 4th March - Year 5 trip to Durham Cathedral (letter to follow)

Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th March - YR1-6 Open Evenings (bookings open from 10th March. Please inform the office prior to the bookings opening if separate appointments are required for separated parents. We encourage parents to attend appointments together where possible.)

Monday 16th - Friday 20th March - Derwent Hill YR5

Friday 3rd April - Last day of Spring Term

Shared Worship:

Please note: doors close promptly at 9am

Friday 7th February : **Year 4**

Friday 6th March: **Year 5**

Friday 28th February: **Year 3**

Friday 13th March: **Year 1**



We ask, where possible, that you stay until the end of the service to minimise disruption.



Benedict Biscop CE Academy PTFA

SPRING DISCO

On Wednesday 12th February 2020

Reception & KS1: 4:30pm - 5:45pm

KS2: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

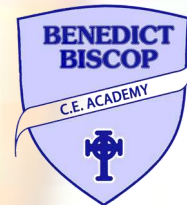
(£2 entry)

Tuck, Hot Dogs and drinks will also be on sale.

(Entry and collection from KS1 rear door)



Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Fantastic Results!

We have recently received a letter from Nick Gibb MP congratulating us on our fantastic results in progress from KS1 to KS2 making us in the **top 3% in the country!** We are extremely proud of this achievement and would like to thank all staff, pupils and families involved.



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Mrs Sarah Armstrong
Benedict Biscop Church of England Academy
Marcross Drive
Sunderland
SR3 2RE

20 January 2020

Dear Mrs Armstrong,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on the very high level of progress that pupils in your school demonstrated in the reading, writing and mathematics Key Stage 2 assessments last year.

Your school's results, as published on 13 December, show progress scores of 5.3, 4.5 and 3.2 in reading, writing and mathematics respectively. This means that in terms of the progress your pupils make between Key Stage 1 and the end of Key Stage 2, your school is amongst the top 3 per cent of primary schools in the country.

The Government wants to ensure that every child has the fluency in reading, writing and mathematics necessary to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond, which is why I was delighted to see your results.

Thank you for your work in continuing the drive towards higher academic standards, and congratulations again to you and your staff for your commitment and success.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



207 Cotton Exchange
Bixteth Street
Liverpool, L3 9LQ
Tel: 0151 558 1970
www.icecats.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with regards to the ICE CATS Program.

Your school has decided to use the program to help support staff and children in school to learn how to respond to evacuation and lockdown procedures. These are things that new legislation requires schools should be planning for and implementing.

I am a Liverpool resident with children of my own, my youngest being of primary school age. I have been in school governance for eighteen years and I am fortunate to have a background in security and education. I have used my experience to create a simple 30 minute lesson that is a fun and active P.E. lesson, it works with curriculum and teaches children to respond to guidance in a worst case scenario situation.

As a parent myself I understand the dangers we face in modern society and the very real threat we are under. I acknowledge the chance of this happening here in school is very slim, but...what if...!!!

By teaching young children and adults to respond, with simple commands and signals they will become second nature and may very well save lives. They are a life skill that can be used in any environment outside school, but also in any country you may visit.

I would like to stress that at no point do we use words or language which would cause alarm to children or make references to previous scenarios in the training with children unless it is age appropriate. But should children have questions about their safety they will be answered appropriately or privately with teachers and parents.

As a parent I entrust the safety of my children to the school they are assigned and believe that school is an extension of my family that will care for my children with their safety and care being the utmost priority alongside education.

I understand parents and carers feel unsure of this situation and guidelines currently available and I believe that transparency of the program is of the utmost importance.

I will be available at school on Monday 10th February at 9am (entrance through the hall doors) and 2.30pm (entrance through the school office).

I welcome any questions and feedback.

Yours faithfully

Joanne Carter
Executive Director

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Y3 Trip to Oriental Museum

Year 3 are learning about the Ancient Egyptians this term, therefore, we visited the Oriental Museums Egyptian exhibits to look at real artefacts. The children explored the gallery and learnt about the Egyptian Gods, food and clothes! When handling and investigating the artefacts they tried to work out what they were and what they were used for. They were very lucky as they were able to look at and ask questions about a real Ancient Egyptian mummy! The trip was so fascinating and the children had an amazing time.



Reading Volunteers

Thank you to all of the community reading volunteers for the sessions we have had so far. Children have already begun to form relationships with positive role models, helping not only our reading to develop, but our love and enthusiasm for reading. We really value parental support at Benedict Biscop and the children are thoroughly enjoying the sessions. If you want to know how you can support your child at home with reading or more about reading in school then check out our website for our parents guide.



Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Y4's Trip to Segedunum

Year 4 are learning about the Romans this term. We visited Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum where the children explored the fort and learnt about Roman stories, invasions and food! They got to see some of the original Hadrian's Wall and learned about how the Romans influenced our local area and life today. The trip was so fascinating and the children had a fantastic time!



Y6 Maths Challenge

We were invited to take part in a problem solving competition at Explore Learning centre. Throughout the competition we took part in two challenges that tested our team work, reasoning and communication skills, whilst challenging our mathematicians.



Donations

Thank you for all of the generous donations we receive from our families. We are very grateful. A recent donation of a kitchen is helping the children to role play family life and develop knowledge and understanding of the world.



Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



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 in to 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.



Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



**National
Online
Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday

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 a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



SOURCES:

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety



Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Uniform Reminder

Please be reminded that our uniform policy should be adhered to at all times. Correct uniform plays an important role in the schools ethos and helps create a sense of community and belonging. A smart appearance maintains high esteem. Please pay particular attention to ensure pupils do not come to school with coloured or shaved hair and wear appropriate footwear (flat, black shoes, not trainers).



Please refer to the schools uniform guidance and policy on the schools website for remedial actions and consequences for when policy is not followed.

No Smartwatches

As part of keeping our children and staff safe can we remind parents that any form of smartwatches are not permitted in school except basic pedometers or Fitbits (without cameras or recoding facilities).

Please can all pupils remember to bring their PE kits into school. They may miss out on their lesson if they have no, or incorrect, PE kit to enable them to participate.

****Always ensure your child's name is written in ALL uniform****

EYFS Book and Breakfast

We love books and reading so what a better way to start our day than with stories and breakfast with our families, recognising the importance of reading with our children and



having positive reading role models. Children and their families enjoyed sharing their favourite stories with each other. Thank you to everyone who took time out of their day to join



us on our storytelling morning. Parents particularly enjoyed Mrs Clark's story, role modelling reading with expression. **We encourage parents to read to their children every day.**

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Nursery Admissions

We can take initial interest for our Nursery at any time from a child being born. If you know anyone who is interested, or if you have a child yourself who would be eligible to start Nursery in September 2021, 2022 or 2023, please ring/visit the office to register your interest.



Y6 Trip to Woodhorn Museum

This week year 6 visited Woodhorn Museum in Northumberland. They looked at maps and census data about a local mining disaster and had a fantastic opportunity to question some people who were involved in the miners' strikes.



Parking

Please can parents be considerate that they are not blocking residents' driveways or garages when parking outside of the school gates.



Are you following us on Facebook?

For updates on upcoming events and what our pupils are learning about in school then make sure to follow our Facebook page!



Benedict Biscop Academy

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



HM Government



CORONAVIRUS: PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

You can help too.

Germs can live on some surfaces for hours.

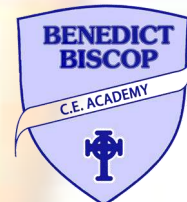
To protect yourself and others:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue, and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.
- If you have arrived back from China within 14 days follow the specific advice for returning travellers.

This is the best way to slow the spread of almost any germs, including Coronavirus.

Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Term Dates 2019-2020

Benedict Biscop CE Academy 2019-20



September 2019						
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	School Closed/Holidays
	Bank Holidays
	Inset Days - pupils not in school

The Inset days may be subject to change.

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Term Dates 2020-2021

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy 2020-2021



September 2020						
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