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Dear Parents/Carers

Use of 'Tiktok' by children.

We are aware that an increasing number of children in the school use mobile technology to communicate with each other out of school hours. One of the most popular apps with our current cohort of pupils is Tiktok (formerly known as musical.ly) and is a social media platform for creating, sharing and discovering short music videos.

On the website www.commonsensemedia.org the average parent review suggests the app is suitable for children aged 14+ due to swearing and sexual content in the songs.

<u>How can I ensure my child is using the app safely?</u>
- Have conversations with your child about their use of the app and understand how they use it and what they use it for.
- Encourage them to use the separate section of the app for under 13s. This only lets children view curated videos: they can't comment, search, or post their own videos, and their data isn't collected.
- There is also a digital well-being setting that allows parents to set two-hour screen time limits with the app (locked with a password), and a new restricted mode (also password-protected) which can help filter out inappropriate content.

To ensure that children communicate appropriately online they have been taught to:
- Keep personal information private
- be light, bright and polite
- understand that information (particularly emotions) can often be mis-interpreted online
- ask for permission before posting any pictures online
- be aware of stranger danger and to leave a group chat if they don't know every member personally

Please ensure that if your child uses Tiktok that they follow this advice. The children are aware that inappropriate use of social media between two students out of school will result in a sanction at school.

If you wish to discuss this matter further or have any other online safety concerns then please contact myself or the school via the admin office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Sieber

Computing subject leader