



17th February 2023

Time flies when you are having fun! Somehow, we have hurtled through January and find ourselves at half term break. There have been many highlights of the last 7 weeks and the simple joy of arriving and leaving in a bit of daylight has certainly encouraged me!

We hope all our families have a lovely half term together and we look forward to catching up on 27th Feb.

Important Dates:

Mon 27th Feb—Start of second Spring half term

Tues 28th Feb—Creative Lego Workshop (all children will be involved in creating a light up 'electro city')

Thurs 2nd March—World Book Day! Come dressed up as a favourite book character, if you want to. Ask your grown ups to bring their favourite book with them when they drop you off or collect you—Mrs Rowe wants to take lots of photos of our school community with their favourite books.

Thurs 9th March—Netball Competition (other schools attending) at Long Mountain

Friday 31st March—End of Spring Term

Monday 17th April—Start of Summer Term

Monday 8th May—Coronation Bank Holiday

Tues 9th—Fri 12th May—KS2 SATs Week

Extra-Curricular Clubs/Activities

KS2 Football—Mondays until 4.15pm

KS2 Netball—Thursdays until 4.15pm

Music/Uke club—**Thursday lunchtimes** (change of time) children who attend music club will be able to have lunch at 12 to enable them to attend club at 12.30pm.

Boardgame Club—Fridays until 4.15pm (places limited to 20, open to Class 2, 3 & 4—please email to book a place)



World Book Day Thursday 3rd March, 2023

What are we doing at Long Mountain ?

We will be celebrating world book day by inviting children and staff to come to school dressed as a favourite book character. You don't have to dress up. If you don't want to or can't manage it for any reason, please just come in uniform as normal.

Please don't feel you have to spend money on a costume. There are lots of websites with ideas for quick, fun and inexpensive dress up ideas. Here is one you can visit if you are feeling stumped!

[Made for Mums](#)

*If your child would like to bring their favourite book (or their current favourite!) with them to school—please do send them in. **We would also love it if parents, carers, grandparents wanted to bring one of their favourite books with them for drop off or collection time—I will be out taking photos to share in school!** Inspiring our children to develop a love of reading is one of the most important things families can do—so please do join in the fun.*



LONG MOUNTAIN PTFA

QUIZ NIGHT

**THURSDAY 16TH
MARCH 2023**

7.30PM

**AT THE
LOWFIELD INN,
MARTON**

TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE

£5 PER PERSON TO
INCLUDE HALF TIME
SNACKS

PRIZES TO BE WON &
RAFFLE. ALL WELCOME!

Parentkind
Member Association



Planned Teaching Strikes

Whilst we respect and support the right of teaching colleagues to take strike action, **we will not be closing any classes due to the planned national strikes**. All staff are acutely aware of the disruption experienced by children over the last years and want to make sure there is as much continuity as possible for all classes.

Dogs in the Playground

We recognise that dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. However, others may find the presence of dogs in the playground and school grounds stressful, even frightening and even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment.

Therefore, school policy is that **no dogs are allowed on school premises** (either on a lead or carried). We would appreciate your co-operation by not bringing your pet to school. If you wish to wait at the gates with your dog, please let us know so that we can get your child safely to you.

We hope you will support us in this; our priority is to maintain the safety and well-being of all children and adults on site. This decision is in line with local and national guidance.

Please note that service dogs are permitted e.g. guide dogs or hearing dogs.

School Money

Urgent

As we approach the end of the financial year, it is essential that outstanding debts are settled. We have a very large outstanding balance owed to school currently and we will be very grateful to everyone who clears their balance on Eduspot as soon as possible.

Any balances that remain outstanding after the half-term break will be investigated and dealt with in line with our charging and debt recovery policy.

Financial Hardship

We understand that many families are experiencing increased financial hardship due to the cost of living crisis. Please contact us if you need help—we have services can signpost you to for support.

HELP US **WIN** 
A SHARE OF

£12,000

BY COLLECTING TOKENS

From March 1 to March 25, 2023 in the Shropshire Star



Shropshire
STAR

**SEND YOUR
TOKENS TO US**

Cash For Schools, Shropshire Star,
51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Shropshire Star Tokens

Long Mountain has been accepted to take part in the Cash for Schools 2023 campaign for the chance to win a share of the £12,000 prize pot.

Five schools with the most tokens collected per pupil, will walk away with a cash prize. The first placed school with the most tokens collected per pupil will scoop £5,000, followed by £3,000 for second, £2,000 for third and then two £1,000 awards, which will be presented to the fourth and fifth place schools.

Long Mountain will be featured in a special launch supplement on Wednesday March 1, 2023 showcasing the schools taking part. Vote tokens will be published in the Shropshire Star from Wednesday, March 1 to Saturday, March 25, 2023, and we encourage you all to collect tokens on behalf of the school (and encourage your family, friends and neighbours too!).

You can either drop tokens into the school office or post them direct to the Shropshire Star at the address below, as long as you fill out the Token Notification form to say you're collecting on behalf of Long Mountain. The Token Notification form will also appear regularly in the Shropshire Star, throughout the voting stage.

Vote tokens must be counted and returned to the Shropshire Star by Friday, March 31, 2023. If you're dropping them off to Amanda at the school office, please bring them in no later than March 27 so we have time to post them all off together!

If it's easier for your friends/family/neighbours to send their collected tokens direct to the Shropshire Star, the address is:

Cash For Schools, Shropshire Star, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES.

Police Newsletter Update: LIVESTOCK WORRYING

Lambing season is now starting where historically it has coincided with increased reports of livestock being worried or attacked by dogs.

We have recently received reports of Ewes being attacked or chased and later dying in the Hemford and Shelve areas. Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 it is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep, worrying includes attacking or chasing sheep. Dog Owners, either living locally or simply visiting the area for a walk, have a responsibility to keep their dogs under control at all times. It is vital that dogs are kept on a lead around livestock, even if they can usually be trusted to come to call. If living in or near a farming area, please make sure that the dog is secure and cannot escape from the property.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Certain features are restricted to over-18s only

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity content and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 76 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for creating content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will be harmless but it could potentially surface anything available. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads means they aren't promptly monitored and vast.

18
18+
18+

DAINGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, suicidal or even deadly acts. One notorious example was the "choking trend" which encouraged users to look back at their cell phone screens from a back of oxygen. It led to two fatalities being directly related to TikTok over the tragic deaths of these children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 11 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially accounts created by users like "Can you please come to my class at school?" are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to anyone else on the app, it also lets their videos be suggested to others and makes it easier to contact on them or share their content.

Please click [here](#) to download this useful guidance to read at home. We are concerned about the amount of TikTok focused conversation some of our pupils engage in. Whilst much content is innocent, our pupils don't always have the skills to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate content.

Primary School age pupils should not be using TikTok—it is not age-appropriate and may put them at risk.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase virtual gifts in the app. These gifts are then sent to creators (reducing their monetary risk). If other users see videos they're watching, coins bought as gifts there is up to an eye-watering £1k. TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthday.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive. Figures show that young people are spending increasing amounts of time on it. In the UK, children using TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 82 minutes on YouTube. It's compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2021, the TikTok Now feature lets users post a 15-second video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a randomised notification of a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or post a photo. This feature can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chance of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to reply). Children can't undo these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you disable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features in the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

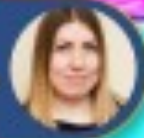
If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's essential to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not writing reports.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Pugh is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry, previously the editor of tech website theinquirer.co.uk and a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



FEBRUARY FOOTBALL CAMP

For more information, please contact Connor:

✉ connor.beesty@hotmail.com

☎ 07873 106670

f @ ConnorBeestyCoaching



WORTHEN VILLAGE HALL

20th, 21st and 22nd February 10:00am - 3:00pm

Price: £15

Early drop off: 9:00-10:00
£2.50

3 Days: £40

Please bring:

Football boots
Appropriate clothing
Packed lunch