



Longstone CE (VA) School,  
The Cross,  
Great Longstone  
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Telephone: 01629 640377  
[www.longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.longstone.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Y5 and Y6,

It has come to our attention that some of our Key Stage 2 children are talking about the mobile app 'TikTok'. Some of these conversations are believed to be inappropriate. Safeguarding concerns, particularly around the viewing of inappropriate content, have also been highlighted. Therefore, we feel it is necessary to raise awareness of this app so that you are able to make an informed decision about the use of it at home. You may also want to spend some time talking to your child specifically about this over the weekend - in case they use 'TikTok' or they are worried or distressed by what they might have heard. We are aware that talking and hearing about these things can encourage a child's natural curiosity so these conversations are important.

Here is a little information about TikTok. We have also included a parent advice leaflet. Should you wish to know more, you can find information at: <https://parentinfo.org/article/tiktok-what-parents-need-to-know>

- TikTok is a video-sharing app. Users can upload and share short videos of themselves and add special effects. **Content can still be seen, without creating an account.**
- They can gain followers ('fans') and browse other people's videos.
- You may have heard of the app by its previous name: Musical.ly. Everything that was on Musical.ly is now on TikTok. If your child previously had a Musical.ly account they will be able to access their content on TikTok.
- The age recommendation is **13 and above**. However, you don't have to prove your age when creating an account, so younger children can still use it easily.
- By default, all accounts are public so anyone on the app can see what your child shares. Please note that even your child's account is then reset to private, their profile photo, username, and bio are still visible to all users on the platform.
- Tik Tok videos can be downloaded to any device and circulated via WhatsApp/iMessage.

We have been in contact with the Child Protection Manager for Education at Derbyshire County Council to assist us in addressing our concerns. We would encourage you to be extra vigilant when your child is using any device or watching any clips. There is lots of useful information and guidance about how to keep children safe when they are accessing online content, including how to set parent controls, at: <https://parentinfo.org>

We would also encourage all parents/carers to remind their children about online safety:

- Have conversations with your children about staying safe – what would they do if they see something which upsets them? Who would they speak to?
- Remind them that it is not their fault and they can always ask for help.
- Be aware of what your children can access online.
- Ensure your children understand the importance of not giving personal information to anyone they do not know or arranging to meet someone they do not know.
- Tell your children no-one has the right to make them do anything they do not want to do.
- Remain calm and non-judgemental.

Our priority is keeping the children safe. Thank you for your support in this matter. If you would like to discuss any of these concerns in school, please call the school office.



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Miss S Bell  
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