



## TO YEAR 5 AND 6 PARENTS / CARERS

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

### E-SAFETY CONCERNS

I would like to draw your attention to a relatively new app called 'Tik Tok'.

#### **What is the Tik Tok app (and why is it dangerous)?**

- The Tik Tok app is a music video social media platform that has replaced the Musical.ly app.
- Existing Musical.ly users, content, and followers have been moved to the new TikTok app upon updating.
- Developed in China, the TikTok app combines lip-syncing, built in video effects, and social media.
- Users can watch clips of others or create clips, edit them, and add special effects.
- The most popular videos feature lip-syncing or dancing.
- Users need to be 13 years old to have an account.

#### **What was the Musical.ly app?**

- Musical.ly was a popular app with children that lets users make lip-syncing videos to their favourite songs.
- Sometimes there could be mature language and sexual content in the songs that are popular on the app, and there was no way to filter the content.
- The app had messaging features that can open children up to inappropriate conversations with strangers.

#### **Why are we concerned?**

Tik Tok is rapidly becoming the most downloaded app.

- **All content is immediately accessible with no filters. A lot of the content is inappropriate for children to view.**
- There are only two privacy settings on the app:
  - **Private:** only the creator can watch their videos.
  - **Public:** anyone on the app can see their videos.
- By default, all accounts are public unless the privacy settings are changed.
- In our experience, apps like Tik Tok and Musical.ly can allow strangers to direct message children.
- If your child had the Musical.ly app they will automatically be transferred to the Tik Tok app.

### **What can parents do?**

- Monitor and have conversations about the apps your children are using.
- Always be on the apps your children use. No monitoring app is better than having a regular digital safety conversation with your children.
- If your child already has a phone / tablet, ensure that they ask for permission before downloading and using any new apps.
- Ask your child to teach you about any new apps they want to download. Then research it to determine if the app is safe for your family to use.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Parker or your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "PJoyce".

Pip Joyce  
Headteacher