

Ysgol Bro Carmel
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What's been happening in school?

The short answer is lots of preparation for Christmas! The school has been busy learning songs for the school performances next week, and the Foundation children have done a wonderful job learning their lines and projecting their voices. We are very excited for everyone to see the show! The presents and gifts in the Catalog Nadolig are also well underway, being prepared and carefully constructed by the Carmel elves. In non-Christmas news, the Year 6 football team won the Holywell Football Tournament at Maes Y Felin last week—da iawn pawb! Additionally, a team of athletes from Elsi and Y Fan Fach also participated in an athletics tournament at Coleg Cambira. As well as performing really well, the children were impeccably behaved and wonderfully represented Carmel. In school, we've also had children coding, filming and observing nocturnal wildlife, cooking pizzas and toasting marshmallows! All in all, plenty of authentic, meaningful learning, with plenty of fun, enjoyment and amazing learning opportunities!

Forest School

There will be no Forest School sessions on Monday (Y5) or Tuesday (Reception) next week, due to the Christmas Production. **Year 3 will have forest school as usual on Thursday 4th December.**

Year 3 **will not** have Forest School on the day of the pantomime. The other sessions will run as normal that week.

Mrs Evans

Today is the last day for Mrs Evans, one of our wonderful HLTAs, who has stepped back from her position at Ysgol Bro Carmel. Mrs Evans has had a tremendous impact on hundreds of children during her time at Carmel, running interventions, supporting learners and providing ELSA support. We will miss her warmth and energy, but are fully supportive of her decision. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Mrs Evans for her dedication and commitment to the school. Tracie, you will always be a part of our Carmel family.

A short farewell and a soon 'welcome back!'

As you will be aware, Mrs Parry has been offered a secondment position with the Speech and Language team, starting on 1st December and returning to Carmel on 31st March 2026. I'm sure Mrs Parry will be a huge success with the team, and look forward to the benefits such an exciting opportunity can have on school when she returns!

In order to maintain the safety of the children and other road users it is imperative that all parents and carers do not park on the yellow zigzags or double yellow lines outside of school. Thank you.



Nadolig Ysgol Bro Carmel

Dec 10th -

Nadolig Cinio - Christmas Dinner

Time for Pam's special roast potatoes and sprouts.

Don't forget to wear your Christmas jumper.

Date 11th -

Ymweliad Sion Corn - Santa visits - £5

Santa is visiting school so book your slot soon

Dec 11th -

Noson Ffilm Nadolig - Christmas Movie Evening

3pm - 5pm - £5

Come to school in your comfiest pyjamas and watch a Christmas film. Hot dogs and movie treats provided.

Dec 17th -

Diwrnod Siwmpwr Nadolig a Parti Nadolig

Christmas jumper & Christmas party day

Wear your Christmas jumper/outfit and be party ready

Dec 18th -

Pantomim - Pantomime - £22

In Rhyl Pavilion to see Sleeping Beauty

National College Newsletter

Attached is a newsletter from the National College—this newsletter is released on Wednesdays and contains really useful information for parents and schools. This edition focusses on Tik-Tok.

Diary Dates:

Please see below for a brief overview of key dates until the end of term.

Every Tuesday —piano teacher in school

Every Thursday—drum teacher in school

*Monday 15th December— **The Grinch** is visiting school! Consent forms will be sent out soon!*

Tuesday 16th December—Dosbarth Celyn are going to William Astor Hall for their p-buzz concert!

Thursday 11th December—The Choir are visiting the village hall!

Kind regards,

Mr M. Martell
Headteacher / Pennaeth



Dosbarth Llyn Celyn have been toasting marshmallows in Forest School.

The children in Llyn Dinas have been practising playing pieces of music on the glockenspiels.



Dosbarth Llyn Brenig enjoyed practising their throwing and catching skills using the beanbags. They also made some 2D shapes by listening to the names being called in Welsh. Da iawn pawb!



PIC•COLLAGE



Congratulations to the Year 6 football team who won the Holywell Football Tournament this morning!
Excellent football! Da iawn!



Alwen have been learning about nocturnal and diurnal animals this week so we have set up a wildlife camera to see which animals venture around the school grounds at night.



Dosbarth Elsi have been learning about gaming in our independent topic work and enjoyed coding Microbits to create their own 'hotter and colder' electronic games.



In preparation for our Catalog Nadolig, Dosbarth Y Fan Fach gathered some market research about children's favourite chocolate.

The children in Dosbarth Meithrin created pictures of Poppie's using their ICT skills and put them on display in our window for Remembrance Day.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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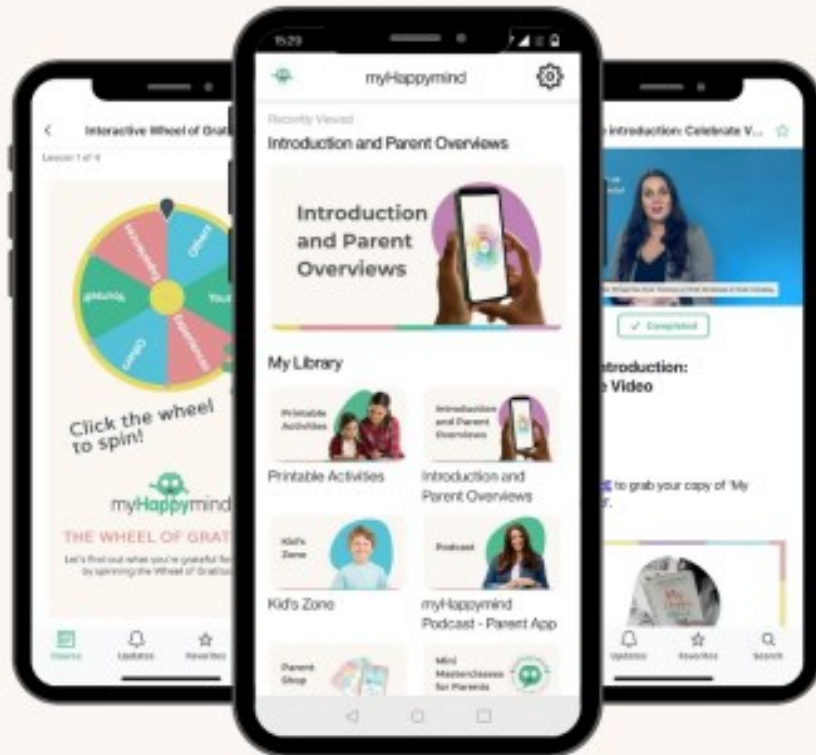
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