

January

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January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

WELCOME

We would like to welcome all our new families and pupils who have joined White Meadows Primary Academy recently. We are pleased to hear you are settling in well.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank you all for your kind donations towards the Christmas Fayre last year. The Christmas Fayre was a huge success. The children enjoyed visiting Santa's grotto. We raised over £200 through this alone.

OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Nursery team are fundraising to purchase new outdoor play equipment. They were very busy in the run up to Christmas making festive gifts to sell. They and will continue to fundraise this year and we will update you with any events.

CHOIR SINGING OVER CHRISTMAS

The children in the school Choir performed at Tesco's, Morrison's, St Marys Church and Arundel Cathedral in December. They represented the school very well and are very much looking forward their performance at the O2 Arena in February

THE GREAT BRITISH BRUNCH

On Thursday 18th January Chartwell's are offering themed day for the school lunch "The Great British Brunch" in conjunction with this we would like the children to wear red, white and blue to school.

HOUSES AWARD

At the end of each term we will be announcing who has won the house award. Throughout each term, children are rewarded with points for various activities and their behaviour. These points go towards their house. Children in the winning house will be able to come in wearing the colour of their house. The houses are as follows; Slindon (Blue), Eartham (Green), Highdown (Red) and Tortington (Yellow).



DECEMBER PANTOMIME

The children thoroughly enjoyed seeing the Pantomimes in December. KS1 had Pyramid Products come to school and perform Aladdin, while KS2 children visited The Regis Centre and watched Aladdin there too. Unfortunately the costs for both of these was not covered fully.

The total cost of the Pantomime trips was £5288.80. Parents were asked to contribute to cover this cost. However, the total sum received was only £3069.16, leaving an outstanding amount of £2219.64 that the school had to find the money to cover. **The lead up to Christmas is always a busy time, so if you forgot to pay your contribution, it is not too late. We would be very grateful if you could please do this via Parent Pay in the usual way. If you need support with using Parent Pay, please see someone in the office who would be happy to help you.**

As you are aware, the recent Government cuts to funding in education have impacted severely on White Meadows. While we always strive to provide the best opportunities for the children at White Meadows, we do rely on voluntary contributions from parents. We have lots of exciting trips and experiences planned for your children during the spring and summer term. However, if we don't receive enough voluntary contributions from parents we will be, regretfully, forced to cancel these learning opportunities. Many thanks as always for your understanding.

ONLINE SAFETY: Musical.ly app warning

We have recently heard of a REAch2 pupil signing up to the social media site Musical.ly and, while using the app, it appears that they have disclosed personal information about themselves. This has subsequently led to the phone being hacked and text messages being sent to other children in the phone book containing explicitly sexual comments and making physical threats. It has also been reported that the phone's camera may have been hacked, as text messages have been sent to the pupil containing information about their current location/activity.

We would like to stress the importance of users making their Musical.ly account private. This will restrict access to their videos so that they are only available to people who they have approved. In order to help you change the privacy settings, we have attached a parents' guide written by experts from CEOP, The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

We would advise all parents/carers regularly check the privacy settings on apps/sites used by their children.

Polite Reminders

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS



If your child has a doctors/hospital/opticians appointment please bring in the letter/appointment card to the school office so that this can be authorised. Please remember if you have a different home time arrangement for your child either speak to the teacher in the morning (KS1) or send in a note with your child (KS2).

It is not always possible to get a message to your child while they are in school.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child will be absent from school, it is important that parents/carers telephone the school office and leave a message on the absence line before 9am. Unexplained absences will be recorded as unauthorised and may result in a fixed penalty fine.

If your child is late, they must be signed in at the office by an adult.



REQUEST OF ABSENCE IN SCHOOL TIME

If you wish to submit an absence for authorisation, please come to the office to collect a form. Once filled in please hand in to the office where it will be passed to the Headteacher for approval. Any unauthorised absences that are taken may result in a fixed penalty fine. **Please note that letters will no longer be accepted.**

RISK ASSESSMENT

If your child has been injured, such as a fracture or a broken bone and will be attending school, please book an appointment with the school office to complete a risk assessment.

SICKNESS POLICY

There have been occasions recently where parents have brought their children into school too soon after diarrhoea/vomiting. We have a strict policy in place which stipulates 48 hours after the last onset of symptoms. This avoids spreading the virus through the class. Could we please ask that parents do not bring their child in within this time as they will be sent home.



UNIFORM AMNESTY

Please can we ask that you check all the uniform and make sure you have your child's uniform. If you find you have anyone else's uniform please give to the class teacher.



Contact details



It is very important that we have your up to date contact details. We have a lot of inactive numbers/email addresses on our database. All letters are sent by e-mail, please check that you are receiving these and advise the school office if there are any problems. Please will you also ensure that if you have changed your telephone number you let us know straight away in case of emergency.

If your child needs emergency treatment or is unwell and we cannot get hold of you (no working number), please note that the school will need to contact social care.

TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

Spring term: Thursday 4th January - Thursday 29th March

INSET days: Monday 19th February

Half-term: Monday 12th February-Friday 16th February

Summer term: Monday 16th April-Tuesday 24th July

Half-term: Tuesday 28th May- Friday 31st June

INSET days: Monday 16th April, Monday 23rd July and Tuesday 24th July

SPRING TERM DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please note that these events could change, you will be alerted by email and weekly newsletters.

Thursday 4 th January	Spring term begins
Tuesday 9 th January	Ash Class trip to Ford Recycling Site.
Thursday 11 th January	Elm Class trip to Ford Recycling Site
Monday 15 th January	Clubs start this week
Thursday 18 th January	The Great British Brunch
Tuesday 30 th January	Dance House Concert
Tuesday 6 th February	Young Voices-02 Arena
Friday 9 th February	Winning House Non-Uniform Day
Monday 12 th -Friday 16 th	Half-term
Monday 19 th February	Inset day

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'LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE'



musical.ly

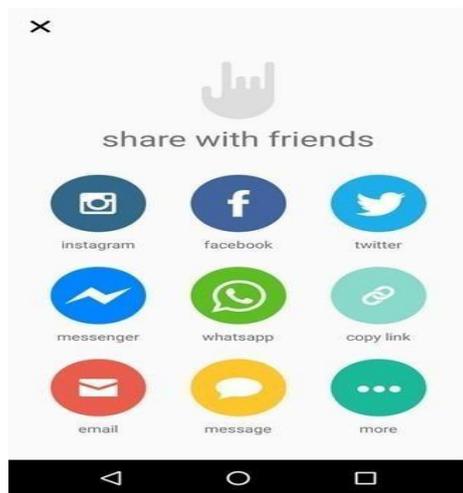
CEOP has seen an increase in the popularity of the app Musical.ly amongst young people. As a result, we have created this guide for parents and carers to help you to understand more about the Musical.ly and it's features.

We endeavour to keep our parents guides as up-to-date as possible, however due to the changing nature of social media, the information and advice in this guide may well date over time. Information is correct as of June 2017.

What is Musical.ly?

Musical.ly is a free social network app popular for viewing and creating short music videos, known as 'Musical.ly's'. Children can select a song from thousands available on the app and record themselves singing, lip-syncing (miming) or dancing along to their chosen song. One of the aims of Musical.ly is to create your own following or fan base. Musical.ly includes 'coins' and virtual gifts that users can give to other users in order to increase their popularity. Videos can be up to one minute long and users are able to edit them using a range of filters. Once recorded, videos can be shared via other social networking apps, such as WhatsApp or Facebook.

Musical.ly's age restrictions within their terms of service are unclear. They state that the service is "not for anyone under the age of 13 but that by using the service, the user affirms that they are 18 years of age or have been authorised to use the service by a parent or guardian".



Why is Musical.ly so popular?

Since its launch in 2014, the popularity of Musical.ly has soared with over 90 million users worldwide.

Musical.ly allows users to be creative and interact with their friends. Young people enjoy sharing their talents, gaining followers and fans and getting their content 'featured' so it can be seen by millions of users. Young people who use Musical.ly like to follow celebrities who also use the app and watch their content. Some celebrities have been known to 'like' or comment on young people's videos and offer to duet with them.

Direct.ly and Live.ly

Direct.ly is a direct messaging function within Musical.ly that allows users to send direct messages to each other. In 2016 Musical.ly launched a linked live streaming function known as Live.ly, which allows users to broadcast their Musical.ly videos in real-time (Live.ly has the same unclear age restrictions as Musical.ly, users need to be at least 13 years old but by using the service they are affirming that they are 18). To access Live.ly, users will sign in to their Musical.ly account.

The default settings on Musical.ly (and therefore Live.ly) are set to public. This means that anyone can view a user's videos, write comments or send them direct messages. Location settings are enabled by default which mean a child's location could be publicised on the app. There is more information on Privacy settings on Page 4 of this guide.

Should I be concerned about Musical.ly as a parent / carer?

Musical.ly state that they moderate content and will remove content that is inappropriate. Their terms of service prohibit the posting of 'obscene, harassing, vulgar and other offensive content'. However it is not clear how effective their moderation is as content that breaks their community guidelines has remained on the site.

You can read Musical.ly's terms of service here - <https://www.musical.ly/en-US/terms>

The introduction of live streaming to Musical.ly has increased the interaction amongst its users, with the ability to comment, like, interact with anyone on the app in real time.

When using Live.ly, users have the option to leave live comments or ask the 'broadcaster' a question. These interactions may be inappropriate or involve users publicly sharing personal information. There have been media reports of users encouraging 'dares' on Live.ly where a user is asked to complete a dare in order receive the in-app gifts and emojis on the site. These dares may involve young people being asked to change their clothing, take their clothing off, answer sexually explicit questions or perform sexual acts. Young people may also be asked to chat on more private platforms such as Whatsapp or Kik.

As with all live streaming, exchanges take place in real time and there could be a tendency for users to be easily influenced and share something without thinking of the consequences. As always, it is important to talk to your child about the risks of sharing too much information online and that they should never feel pressured to do something online that they don't want to do. Your child should know that they can always come to you for help and support, and that even if something has gone wrong online, they will not be blamed.

Young people may choose to perform to a song on Musical.ly that is rated as 18+. This means they could be exposed to song lyrics of a sexual nature, swearing and offensive or threatening language. Although Musical.ly's community guidelines state that posting explicit videos is prohibited, there is a chance that your child could be exposed to videos containing inappropriate content. Talk to your child about the videos they make and share on Musical.ly. Check that you are happy with the songs they choose. Part of the appeal of Musical.ly is that users imitate their favourite pop stars, but this may mean that they copy behaviours that are unsuitable for their age.

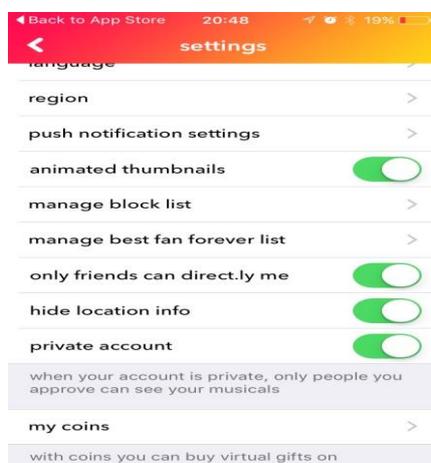
It has also been reported in the press that many fake celebrity accounts exist on Musical.ly, often looking very real and often set up to get large amounts of followers and increased interaction. Speak to your child about who they talk to online, and remind them that people online may not be who they say they are.

Although Musical.ly is free, it includes many in app purchases, such as buying coins and virtual gifts to give to other users. These are often linked to a credit or debit card, or alternatively the app store which may be linked to a Google Play or Amazon Prime account. Musical.ly also includes advertising which may be inappropriate for young people, such as apps where users can pay for more followers.

Privacy settings

Ensure that your child's Musical.ly account is set to 'private' so that only confirmed followers, such as their friends or family, can view their videos and add comments. Location settings can also be hidden so that a user's location is not shown when they post on Musical.ly.

You can change these settings by clicking on the three dots icon on the right hand side of the home screen and turning privacy settings to 'on', as well as the option to 'hide location info' (as shown in the image below). You can also select 'Only friends can direct.ly me'. This can prevent people your child doesn't know from having direct contact with them.

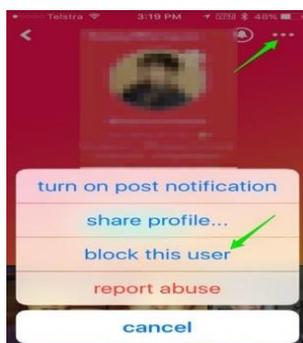


In addition, users can create privacy setting for 'live comments' within Live.ly, and select to only receive comments from people who they follow rather than anyone in the app. Users can also select 'close friends' will only be notified when they are live streaming.

Reporting and blocking a user on Musical.ly

Musical.ly has a 'report abuse' function, however they state in their terms of service that this is only offered "as a courtesy, and the Company has no obligations to remove or take any other action with respect to objectionable content on the service."

To use this, click on the three dots icon in the top right corner of the profile of the person they want to report and click on 'report abuse'. Within this section, you can also block another user's profile which will prevent them from making contact with your child (as shown in the picture below).



There is currently no option to delete your Musical.ly account, however Musical.ly have recently stated that they are in the process of adding this feature.

If you have any concerns about grooming, sexual abuse or exploitation on Musical.ly or on any other app or site, you can report to CEOP at www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre.

Further advice and support for parents and carers is available at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents.

