**ST MARY’S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Head teacher: Mrs Hilary Tyreman**

Dear Parent/ Carer,

It has come to our attention, during online-safety lessons, that some of our children are using the **video-sharing platform TikTok.**

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.

Its main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect- these can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers.

TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. In 2019, it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store’s most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1billion monthly active users worldwide.

At St Mary’s, we believe that Internet Safety is vitally important, with the ever-changing technology and greater capabilities to access the internet from anywhere on multiple devices.

Therefore, we have attached a guide (from National Online Safety) for parents, to further inform your understanding of TikTok.

As the text is fairly small, we have attached a digital copy on our school website, under ‘*Online Safety’.*

Many thanks

Mr King

P.T.O