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E-safety warning about Tik Toc (formerly known as Music Ly)

It has come to my attention that a number of our children are using Tik Toc (formerly Music Ly) which allows children to put videos and a profile online. It has great appeal to children who want to 'play' at being X-Factor stars! This is a 12+ app but it seems that this hasn't prevented a number of them setting up an account. With this particular app all the **profiles** are **public**, with a **picture**, **username** and **bio details** available to all. Although you can limit videos to private this doesn't stop people contacting you. This poses real risks for children – because they are naturally trusting and could easily fall into the trap of sharing images and videos of themselves with people who are pretending to be other than what they are.....

So as a parent what can one do? How do we support our children in making safe choices and learning to navigate the world of social media? How do we keep track what they are using on their devices? How do we hold our nerve and 'just say no' when according to our children 'everyone else' is using it? How do we work out what 'the right thing to do is' in terms of our parenting – when we are grappling with a form of social learning that didn't exist when we were children?

All this, and more, will be addressed in our E-safety talk on Thursday 17th January, held in the infant hall. It is suitable for all parents – because you are all either living with this now (whether you know it or not) or it is just around the corner! It will be led by a representative from the Breck foundation. You can find out more about their work at www.breckfoundation.org

We feel this is a crucial meeting for you all so you can just turn up – but we would like to have enough chairs out. You could help us by either completing the slip at the bottom of the invitation letter attached, or by sending a Dojo message to your class teacher.

Your homework before the evening – find out which apps your children are using!

Best wishes

Sarah Lewis

At St Mary's, everyone is supported, challenged and secure in a caring Christian environment

