

Wraxall's School News



Inspiring – Nurturing – Achieving

What a week! What began as a wet and dreary week has ended in beautiful sunshine over the valley and some crisp starts to the day. The children loved seeing the frost this morning. It was great to be outside with Maple class when they discovered just how thick the layer of frost was on top of our new picnic bench and set about making 'snowballs'. Seraph could be heard calling "It's been snowing! It's been snowing!" which led to a rush of faces scooping up the ice. It's been an eventful week this week for Miss B and she needs a definite shout out for the many roles she has taken on! On Monday she took on the role of the Yorkshire vet and was hard at work in the field next to school rescuing sheep and on hand to provide midwifery support. On Wednesday her plumbing expertise was vital when the school had a mini flood in one of the toilets. While I was turning off the water Miss B literally took it all in her stride and went wading through the soapy water in search of the damaged pipework. I think she might have had a quick paddle too, while she was in there because the water definitely wasn't as high as her top which was soaked. Again, on Thursday her carpentry skills were put to use when the kitchen cabinets needed sawing to accommodate a new microwave, after the other one broke. Everyone helping regardless of the task at hand is a real reminder of why Wraxall is such a special and unique place to be. It has been so lovely to see such enthusiasm from the children. Year 3/4 excelled themselves in swimming (I think Miss B could give them a few tips though after her water adventures!) and it was great to hear how much they have enjoyed this return to a bit more normality. The art work in Year 5/6 has been a treat to see – we'll share some with you soon.

Have a lovely weekend,

Amy Townsend

Diary Dates for January 2022

18th January 2022 - Year 3 & 4 Swimming at Backwell Leisure Centre – Afternoon only

20th January 2022 - Build a Burger Lunch

25th January 2022 - Year 3 & 4 Swimming at Backwell Leisure Centre - Afternoon only

February 2022

Friday 4th February – NSPCC Number Day – Wear clothes with numbers or on a Maths Theme (shapes, etc)

Wednesday 8th February – Safer Internet Day



Stars of the Week

Reception – Belle & Rapha Year 1/2 – Alys & Henry Mac

Year 3/4 – Bow, Tommy, Christopher

Year 5/6 – Sienna, Eloise & Freddie

Headteacher's Award

Thomas, Seraph, Aurora, Lily, Jesse, Corbin



Write down your goals and dreams

Stick the list somewhere you can see it every day



PICNIC AREA THANK YOU

A HUGE thank you to the Hunter family for their very kind donation of two benches and a picnic bench. We have put one in our new memory garden as some permanent seating and the bench and picnic seating is now in our new picnic area. We are now looking to put in place another bin and one further picnic bench so that the children can enjoy eating their packed lunches outdoors.



Build your own burgers!

On Thursday 20th January there is a treat in store for the children as school lunch is a 'Build your own burger' special. Please sign your child up and order their lunch online so that they don't miss out!

Compassion Projects

Each class carried out a compassion project last term. They were thinking about a way to demonstrate compassion to the wider community. Here is Willow Class' beautiful stained glass window decorations being delivered to Sycamore Lodge, Nailsea.



WAYS TO HELP THE WORLD

Write a Thank you note to someone important in your life who has helped you.



In class learning

I loved doing my snowman and I liked doing the colouring. It was fun.

Connie

I loved swimming. It was just really fun to go in a swimming pool again because I haven't been in one for a long time. **Elana**

I enjoyed drawing my snowman and then colouring him in. **Jesse**



I enjoyed doing my writing during English Lesson. We were writing sentences about a story we had read. It was fun. **Abigail**

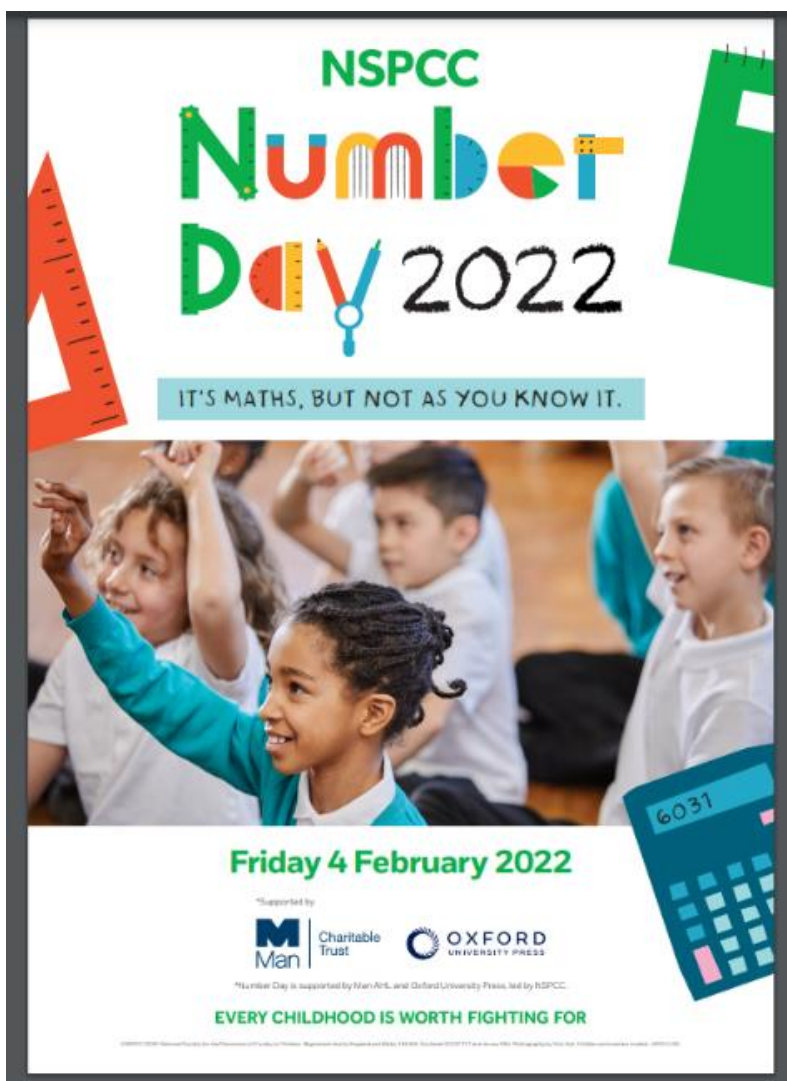
I enjoyed doing handwriting this week and I learned to do joined up writing. **Jakob**

I enjoyed practising our assembly for the School Council. It was very interesting. **Phoebe**

I enjoyed Art this week. We are carrying on with our art work based on Beatrice Milhazes. **Alfie**

I really enjoyed reading the Class Book this week. It was really good. **Mika**





Birthday Book

A BIG thank you for your kind donations of birthday books for school.



NSPCC Number Day 2022

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on **Friday 4 February 2022**.

Everything the NSPCC does protects children today and prevents about tomorrow. The NSPCC need our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline – the helpline that's always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern. On average, a child contacts Childline every **25 seconds**

Making maths meaningful

Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards it. We are having a fun day of maths activities and we will be taking part in *Dress up for Digits*. **Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!). Or get even more creative by dressing in a maths or numbers theme.** To help raise money for the NSPCC, there will be a donation pot in each classroom.

SAFEGUARDING & E- SAFETY

“Everyone is responsible for safeguarding”

Wraxall CofE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils. If you are a parent, child, volunteer or member of staff you should share any concern you may have about a child or an adult with either our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Amy Townsend or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Tamsin Hayward or the Safeguarding Governor, Hazel Mallett. If this is not possible or appropriate and you need to report a concern yourself the numbers below are the main contacts:

Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) 01275 888211 (weekdays 8.45am-5pm or 4.30pm on Friday)

Emergency Duty Team 01454 615165 (outside office hours)

Anyone can refer a safeguarding issue via the NSSCB website (North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board).

If you would like more information then please check out the school website for the LSP Safeguarding Policy and a Wraxall School Policy Summary.

Church News

Sunny Saplings

We're back with our fresh coffee and fruit/cake treats on Wednesday mornings in the Cross Tree Centre from 9.00am-11.00am, families welcome! For more info contact the Parish Office: 01275 852442.

Men's Event at Nailsea Baptist Church and Friends

Nailsea Baptist are holding a men's worship evening with prayer and a guest speaker, Nathan Blackaby from Christian Vision for Men on Monday 7th February at The Baptist Centre, Nailsea. Tea and Coffee from 7pm with a 7.30pm start finishing 9.30. Please email with your interest to attend to nbcmen@nailseabaptist.com.

Vacancy for Families and Children's Worker at St Quircus and St Julietta Tickenham

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to join our Ministry Team and develop our existing work. Key responsibilities will include oversight of our second Sunday service dedicated to Families and Children, co-ordinating our weekly Drop Off Drop In coffee shop for parents and younger siblings of our village school and working with the wider young community of Tickenham to include our Village school to forge relationships. **Working hours:** 6 hours weekly (flexibly) to include a service on the second Sunday in the month and 2 hours one morning per week. Contract: 3 yrs fixed, Salary to be agreed. For further information please contact: Revd. Jules Harris: 01275 859105 or jules.rectorccsqsj@gmail.com It is an occupational requirement that the post holder is a Christian, contract subject to suitable references and DBS check.

Pupil Premium (Free School Meals Benefit)

Free School Meals

There are two schemes for free school meals:

Universal infant free school meals for all children in reception year, year 1 and year 2 – you don't need to apply as they're automatically given at the school

Free school meals for people on qualifying benefits – you'll need to apply for these

If you claim qualifying benefits and your child is entitled to universal infant school meals, you should still apply for free school meals so as the school is given additional funds, known as pupil premium, to support those children with their learning in school and to assist with other school costs. This can include: 1-1 support, extra reading, phonics and contributions towards trips and enrichment activities.

Qualifying benefits for free school meals

Your child will be entitled to free school meals if you get any of these benefits:

- income support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with annual take home pay/net earnings below £7,400 (which equals £616.67 per month) benefits not included.

How to apply

Free school meals entitlement is for the child, not the family, so you will need to apply for each child when they start school.

If your child is starting school in September, you should apply during the summer holidays as we cannot deal with your application earlier. Applying too early could result in your application being removed.

If you are moving into North Somerset from another area you will need to apply. You will need your National insurance number to apply.

When to reapply

Due to the roll out of Universal Credit, all pupils that are currently eligible for free school meals will be protected until the end of the school stage they are in on 31 March 2022. This means if your child is receiving free school meals at primary school in March 2022, you won't need to reapply for them until they start secondary school. Children do not receive free school meals in college. If your child changes school or address before 31 March 2022, email fsm@nsomerset.gov.uk so we can update your free school meals record.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about REPLIKA

AGE RATING
UK & EUROPE: RATED 'MATURE'
17+

Replika is an artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot companion that its developers claim users can form an actual emotional connection with. Once users have created an account and chosen a 3D avatar, they select the type of relationship they want with the chatbot: friend, mentor or romantic partner. Using a neural network to hold an ongoing one-on-one conversation, Replika gradually becomes more like the user as it gathers data from their responses. It isn't the only AI chatbot app available, but Replika pushes the boundaries of the concept to offer a highly realistic conversational experience.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As its age rating suggests, Replika includes content that isn't suitable for children, such as flirtatious messaging and sexual role-play. While the developer has recently updated the app to ensure this can only be accessed by adults who select 'romantic relationship', there are numerous accounts online of sexual content being seen by younger users of the app.

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NO SELF-AWARENESS

Replika is designed to seem very human, but it's important to remember that it's a still an AI-powered chatbot that has no self-awareness. This means (as numerous users have highlighted online) that the chatbot sometimes fails to filter out inappropriate content: one user reports, for example, that Replika shared upsetting videos of vicious dogs.

NOT MEDICALLY CERTIFIED

Replika claims to be able to improve users' emotional wellbeing by easing feelings of anxiety and loneliness. However, its disclaimer states "we are not a healthcare or medical device provider ... nor should our services be considered medical care, mental health services or other professional help services." There is no guarantee that Replika can help with mental health issues – it could, in fact, have the opposite effect.

POTENTIAL ADDICTION

Like many apps, Replika is addictive by nature. It encourages the user to provide more information so it can learn about them and become better at conversation. Not only does this mean your child could end up spending a long time on an app where they might share sensitive information, but also that they could find themselves forming an emotional attachment to the human-like chatbot.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Replika is free to download, but its developers do offer in-app purchases. Users can pay to upgrade to a 'Pro' version of the app, which unlocks extra content such as additional activities, conversation topics and the ability to hold voice calls with their AI 'companion'. Users can also spend real-world money on the 'gems' used to buy new outfits or different personality traits for their avatar.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

Replika doesn't feature its own in-game parental controls, but most mobile devices come with these controls built in. On iOS devices, for instance, you can set content and privacy restrictions – so if you don't want your child to be using 17+ rated apps like Replika, you can adjust the settings to prevent these from being downloaded.

TALK ABOUT THE DANGERS

If your child is determined to use Replika and you're happy for them to download it, then it's vital you talk to them first about the possible dangers of this type of app. For example, it's key that they understand not to give out any information which is personal or could be used to identify them – and it would be prudent to warn them about the potential of being exposed to mature content on the app.

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Replika and might be forming an unhealthy emotional connection with their chatbot, it's important to look out for the warning signs. They may be giving increasing priority to the app ahead of more important everyday activities (such as doing homework or eating meals) or could be showing signs of irritability and a lack of concentration.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP

If your child is suggesting that they should use Replika for mental health reasons – because they're lonely or having feelings of anxiety, for example – it would be sensible to recommend other options to them. Replika's developers freely admit that they are not a certified mental health service, so if your child needs help it would unquestionably be best to consult a qualified professional instead.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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