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Newsletter 17 – 14th January 2022

Class News

- Nursery - have enjoyed learning colours and exploring how to make secondary colours through mixing
- Y1 - had a wonderful WOW day and learnt how to collage materials to make African animals
- Y2 - have shown great resilience in numeracy learning how to use bar models to answer problems
- Y1 - have enjoyed using a Venn diagram to sort animals into groups based on the foods they eat
- Y3 - have enjoyed learning about the different parts of a plant and the functions that these have
- Y4 - have thoroughly enjoyed their WOW day & had great fun creating their Rainforest dioramas
- Y5 - have thoroughly enjoyed their WOW day and made incredibly impressive trebuchets
- Y6 - have learnt all about Charles Darwin, his life, theories and discoveries

Dear Parents,

Another busy week, the children are making good progress in all aspects of school life with lots to look forward to! Don't forget teacher led after school clubs start next week! We would like to extend a welcome to Miss Luthi who will be in Year 1, and Mrs Constant who will be sharing the week in the office with Mrs Canfield.

Rotary Photography Competition

We will be taking part in an exciting opportunity for our budding photographers, the 10th Rotary Interschool Photography Competition, with 18 schools from across Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. Entries must be sent as names J-PEG attachment by Wednesday 23rd February 2022. At the end of this competition an exhibition showcasing the best of the work will be showed at the New Forest Heritage Centre gallery with an official awards ceremony will take place on Friday 6th May. This year's theme is 'New Beginnings'. Please see attached poster for more information.

Subject Update – Maths

We are continuing to follow a system of teaching mastery in maths through our use of the Inspire Maths programme. The learning is carefully structured through concrete (practical objects), pictorial (using pictures) and abstract (formal written methods) methods to ensure children develop a deep conceptual understanding of maths. Collaborative and independent opportunities are provided to help the children to deepen their understanding and to justify and explain their thinking. The children also participate in daily arithmetic opportunities to develop their knowledge and fluency of number facts.

NSPCC Number Day

On Friday 4th February we will be supporting the NSPCC's Number Day. The children are invited to come into school wearing clothes that have a mathematical theme, e.g. displaying numbers, shapes, repeating patterns, etc. The children will be spending the day taking part in mathematical challenges and activities and will also be using their maths skills to do some baking. We will be asking the children to bring in a donation to support this very important charity. More information to follow.

Value of the week: Aspiration

We have been exploring what our school value aspiration means and in KS2 our discussion point was "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss you'll land among the stars" by Les Brown. It prompted some excellent discussions. KS1 talked about what our hopes of achieving something are and why it is important to have hopes and dreams.



Covid-19

Case numbers in school, amongst staff and children remain low. From 11th January 2022 if you receive a positive LFD test you are required to isolate immediately and not have a PCR.

Another change to the guidance! From Monday 17th January 2022, if you are self-isolating with COVID-19, you will have the option to reduce your isolation period after 5 full days if you test negative with a LFD on both day 5 and day 6 and do not have a temperature. For example, if you test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, you are able to return to your education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace. If the result of either tests is positive, you should continue to self-isolate until you get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until you have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Measures in place:

- Ventilation – in school will be monitored and we are using CO2 monitors as an indicator of where ventilation needs to be increased. Children may wish to wear a base layer under their school uniform to keep warm.
- Classrooms are sanitised regularly throughout the day
- Daytime enhanced cleaning of common touch points such as doors, light switches etc.

Internet Safety

Replika is an artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot companion that its developers claim users can form an actual emotional connection with. It mixes deep questions about a user's hopes and fears with lighter enquiries about their preferred pizza toppings. Confiding in a realistic bot can also ease the stigma that someone might feel in opening up to another human about emotional or mental issues. The app's makers, however, stress that it is not a medically certified service. This week's guide explores the possible risks of using Replika, including the chance of actually worsening a mental or emotional problem.

School Starters 2022 – Closing date 15th January 2022

Apply online: Dorset residents @ www.dorsetforyou.com/school-admissions or call 01305 221060.
Hampshire residents @ <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/admissions.htm>

Closing Date Starting school applications is: 15th January 2022

Dates for Diary

January

- W/C 17th - Teacher Led Clubs Start
19th - Girls 7 aside County Football Tournament @ Littledown

February

- 4th - NSPCC Number Day
21st – 25th - Half Term

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Crossley
Headteacher



The finalist's photographs will be on display at the New Forest Heritage Centre gallery!



The Rotary Club of Ringwood

Photography Competition 2022

New Beginnings



Open to students, parents and staff from all 18 schools across Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire.

For rules: Please visit the Ringwood School website.
All entries to: photocompetition@ringwood.hants.sch.uk
Deadline: Wednesday 23rd February 2022.



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

18

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.

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 blog *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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