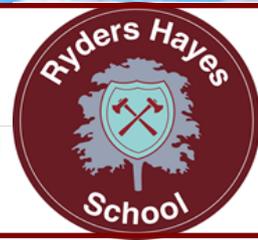


# Newsletter



*'Do the right thing to be the best you can be'...*

**14th January 2022**

Happy New Year to you all.

We hope that you have all had some quality time with your loved ones over the break and are well and safe.

Perhaps on the evening of Tuesday 4th January you had that sense of holding your breath, contemplating and awaiting what the first week might bring, a sense perhaps of stepping into the unknown. There is still, of course, a lot of uncertainty about what the coming weeks will bring, but it's important too, to look back at the week and see how we have all met the challenge.

The children have settled back into the routines and are ready to learn, staff are finding ways to support narrowing the learning gaps and offering exciting opportunities and families are supporting remote-learning, following the government changes to keep everyone safe - continuing to work together to give the children the best possible start!

Since returning to school, Year 6 have started their revision programme in preparation for the end of Key Stage Statutory Assessment Tests, whilst balancing the wider curriculum. Year 5 have attended the Walsall Art Gallery as part of an exciting opportunity to work with a composer and make connections with art. This work will continue in school, with an opportunity to revisit the later this term to hear the compositions.

We have welcomed many new families in our Early Years, with the children settling in well. The outdoor learning environment is mapped across the EYFS curriculum to offer exciting opportunities for the children to explore and be inquisitive.

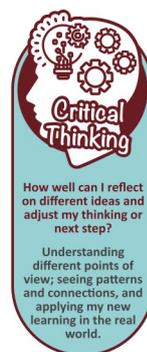
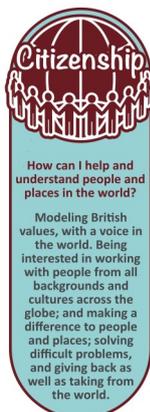
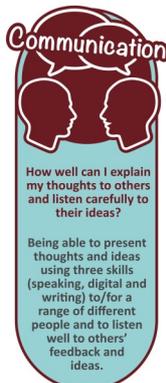
Across school our tutoring programme has started this week supporting many of our children both face to face and remotely. Our wrap-around provision continues to support families who require an extended school day and our extra-curricular clubs continue in partnership with Premier Sports.

We look forward to the exciting opportunities and experience this year, including Number Day, World Book Day, Mars Day and the Platinum Jubilee (detailed information to follow), visits across school to name a few.

We look forward to working with you and thank you for your continuing support.

**Jaz Paul**  
**Head Teacher**

# The 6Cs



## What am I like as a person?

**Character:** showing the personal qualities needed to work well in the world, including: grit, resilience, reliability, honesty.

## How can I help and understand people and places in the world around me?

**Citizenship:** modelling British values, with a voice in the world. Being interested in working with people from all backgrounds and cultures across the globe, and making a difference to people and places, solving difficult problems and giving back, as well as taking from the world.

## How well can I work as part of a team?

**Collaboration:** being able to work well with others to support one another's learning, decision-making and improving our thinking as part of a great team.

## How well can I explain my thoughts to others and listen carefully to their ideas?

**Communication:** being able to present thoughts and ideas using three skills (speaking, digital and writing) to/for a range of different people and to listen well to others' feedback and ideas.

## How many different ways can I find to do something and put my ideas into practice?

**Creativity:** thinking creatively in and about different situations to explore possibilities and solve problems.

## How well can I reflect on different ideas and adjust my thinking or next step?

**Critical Thinking:** understanding different points of view; seeing patterns and connections and applying my new learning in the real world.



**Diary Dates:**

**Numbers Day — 4th February 2022 ( Children to wear a top with numbers on)**

**February Half Term Holiday:**

**Monday 21st February — Friday 25th February 2022**

**Children return to school on Monday 28th February 2022**

**World Book Day in school on Thursday 3rd March 2022 (see separate article to follow)**

**Mars Day — 14th March 2022**

**Sports Relief — March 2022 (Date to be confirmed)**

**Last day of Spring Term: Friday 8th April 2022**

**Easter Holidays:**

**Monday 11th April 2022 - Friday 22nd April 2022**

**Children return to school: Monday 25th April 2022**

# SPOTLIGHT

**What have our year groups been focusing on this week and what the focus is next week....?**

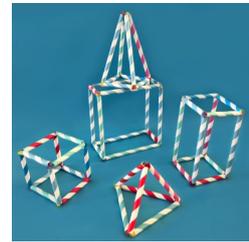


In science, Year 1 discussed the changes of season from Autumn to Winter. The children identified the physical changes outside and wrote down their findings.

In PE will continue doing dance. The children will be put a sequence together with a repeated pattern.

This week, Year 2 have identified 3D shapes and their properties. We even made 3D shapes from straws and Blu-tac!

Next week, we will continue to deepen our knowledge about 2D and 3D shapes.



This week, Year 3 have been learning about nutrition in Science. We recapped the different food groups.

Next week, we will be learning about the Egyptian Cinderella and how this links to other traditional tales.

This week, Year 4 have started their new History topic - the Vikings. Through looking at historical sources of information, we found out about the 'terror of 8th June 793'. Can you explain to your parents what happened?

Next week in our History lesson, we will be finding out about the Viking longship and why the design was so important to them.



This week, Year 5 visited Walsall Art Gallery and began to explore different pieces of Art. We discussed the colours used, how the Art made us feel and how the artist achieved this.

Next week we will begin to compose music to reflect the artwork we have explored. We can't wait to begin!

In Year 6 the children have been performing and writing up their own version of The Highwayman this week.

Children will be writing more figurative writing in English next week and will be working on advancing the action through speech in their writing.



# Safer Parking



## School-Keep-Clear

No stopping or parking on school keep clear markings

**Mon – Fri**  
**During restricted times**

If you do stop, you may be liable for a Penalty Charge Notice of £70



Walsall Council

### Penalty Charge Notices

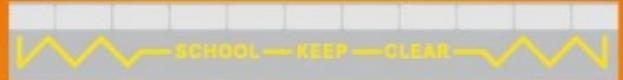
Parking Restrictions and School Keep-Clear markings are enforceable by the council's Civil Enforcement Officers and CCTV enforcement vehicles. If you do not park responsibly and contravene traffic regulations you may be liable to pay a Penalty Charge Notice.



# Safer Parking

Play your part in keeping the roads near your child's school safe

- Do not stop or park on SCHOOL-KEEP-CLEAR markings during the restricted times.



- Do not park on double yellow lines or on a single yellow line during restricted times.
- Do not park on footpaths or within 10 metres of a junction as this restricts visibility. The Police may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- Do not block driveways or dropped kerbs.



Know your parking rights visit Parking Services at [www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk)

### Why not try one of the alternatives:

- Park & Stride – park away from the school and walk the last 5-15 minutes of the journey
- Walking Bus – an organised walk to / from school on a pre-determined route supported by adult volunteers



For full details of these and other initiatives that improve safety, reduce congestion and help keep your children healthy visit our website

[www.astarswalsall.co.uk](http://www.astarswalsall.co.uk)



Walsall Council



**Parking continues to be an issue around the school.**

**Please see below more examples of inconsiderate and dangerous parking, we have been sent this week, and we ask that the road regulations are followed.**



**For  
Your  
Information**

# KOMBATKIDS

*The Right Choice!*



**First 3  
classes  
FREE!**

WELCOMING NEW BEGINNERS AT

Ryders Hayes school thursday 3.30pm  
(after school class in the school hall)  
Pelsall Community Centre Thursday 5pm  
other days are available please text 07761772924

To register text: child name / class location  
t: 07730 899722  
e: info@kombatkids.com  
w: www.kombatkids.com  
f: www.facebook.com/kombatkids



**FREE 5 WEEK FAMILY  
MATHS & ENGLISH COURSES**  
(For adults to help children at KS1 & KS2  
use maths and/or English in a fun way)



- Create activities relating to numbers, shapes or your children's favourite book
- Produce games and activities to be played with your children
- Build maths and/or English into everyday activities at home
- Gain confidence and develop maths and/or English skills in a fun way
- Meet new people

Call Lynda Whitebeard on 01922 657068  
to register your interest for one or both courses



**Using public transport?  
We're easy to reach!**

It takes less than ten minutes to get to our Hawbush campus if you're travelling from Walsall or Bloxwich on the bus.

**Bus Routes:**  
Look out for bus numbers **2, 31, 32 and X51**, all of which have stops just footsteps away.



**Hawbush Address:  
Walsall College  
Hawbush Campus  
Beeches Road  
Walsall  
WS3 1AG**

**For GPS/Sat Nav, please use:  
WS3 1HB**

**KNOW MORE  
about sleeping  
with your baby**  
The safest place for baby to sleep is in a cot in your room for at least the first 6 months.

NEVER share a bed with your baby if either you or your partner smokes, has drunk alcohol, has taken illegal prescription or unprescribed medication/drugs that make you drowsy, takes illegal drugs or your baby are premature or has health needs. Your baby could suffocate in the corner or pillows or if you roll on top of them. Local babies have died this way.

Keeping babies safer in the Black Country designed and developed by Dudley Council Public Health endorsed by Black Country CDEP. For more information go to <https://www.kidshelpout.org.uk/>

**KNOW MORE  
about prop feeding  
your baby**  
Whilst feeding your baby with a bottle, you must always hold the bottle and your baby during the feed.

If your baby's bottle is gripped up by something, your baby could choke, suffocate or die. Local babies have died this way.

Keeping babies safer in the Black Country designed and developed by Dudley Council Public Health endorsed by Black Country CDEP. For more information go to <https://www.kidshelpout.org.uk/>

**KNOW MORE  
about overdressing  
your baby**  
You need to keep your baby warm when it's cold outside.

Overdressing your baby can potentially cause overheating, rashes and sunburn. However, children cannot regulate their temperature. When you put your baby into their cot or pram, take a layer of clothing off. Babies only need one more layer than you. Babies should not be left to sleep in their car seats/cot when the MFL is overnight or they could overheat and die. Local babies have died this way.

Keeping babies safer in the Black Country designed and developed by Dudley Council Public Health endorsed by Black Country CDEP. For more information go to <https://www.kidshelpout.org.uk/>

**KNOW MORE  
about sibling sleep  
and your baby**  
The safest place for baby to sleep is in a cot in your room for at least the first 6 months.

NEVER let your children share beds with their baby brother or sister. Young children can easily roll on top of their baby brother or sister and suffocate them. Local babies have died this way.

Keeping babies safer in the Black Country designed and developed by Dudley Council Public Health endorsed by Black Country CDEP. For more information go to <https://www.kidshelpout.org.uk/>

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# REPLIKA



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.

18

CHANGED

#### 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 back 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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Your Future | Their Future

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**5-11 Programme Code: Y576**

**We offer full time routes only.**

**For more information please contact  
Cheryl Heaton, Primary Course Manager**

**on 01922 683008**

**or email [c.heaton@ryders-hayes.co.uk](mailto:c.heaton@ryders-hayes.co.uk)**