

# Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh  
C of E Primary School**

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024



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## News from your Headteacher

We look forward to welcoming you next week for Parents' Evening. Please remember that appointments are being held in person in your child's classroom. If you haven't made an appointment or are unable to meet next week, but would like to have a meeting with your child's teacher, please email using the class email account to arrange an alternative time for a meeting or call.

There are several trips, visits and events booked into the school diary. Please ensure that you check ParentPay for further details of events for specific classes. These visits are always extremely enjoyable and provide fantastic learning opportunities for the children. Organising a trip is not easy for staff; it is time consuming, sometimes stressful and often complicated! There is an awful lot of paperwork to be done, even before the trip starts! Many schools do not take children out on trips due to the additional work load. At Withycombe, we see the real benefit of taking children out of school to experience new things and we see the positive impact on children's learning back in school following a trip. We always make sure we are getting the very best deal for transport and ticket costs, ensuring the trip is as affordable as possible. We are so grateful to our PTFA who have agreed to support the partial funding of trips but please be aware that school are unable to sustain the level of subsidy that we have been required to put in place recently, and therefore we may in future need to cancel trips if not enough parental contributions are received. If you are struggling to pay for a trip in full, please let your child's class teacher know.

We are proud that the numerous visitors to our school regularly comment on the excellent behaviour of the children including in the classroom. From time to time of course, there are incidents where children's behaviour falls short of our expectations. At WRPS, we use a Relational Approach to behaviour management: staff take an effort to form positive relationships with all children, get to know their likes and dislikes and show interest in their worlds (we refer to this as 'deliberate botheredness'). Staff model positive and respectful interactions and we expect the same back from our children. Research shows that when staff and children forge strong relationships, children are better placed to make more positive choices about their own behavioural choices and are more able to recognise when mistakes have been made.

Following incidents where behaviour falls below our expectations, we use a Restorative Approach - focusing on rebuilding relationships and righting wrongs. There are pathways of actions that staff follow, including holding a 'restorative conversation' to investigate: what happened? how did people feel at the time? who was impacted upon? what other choices could have been made? what are the steps to make things better? Our aim is for children to learn from their mistakes and to understand what to do in the future should a similar issue arise. We empower our teachers and TAs to hold restorative conversations (in private to avoid embarrassment or shame) and to decide on a suitable and proportional consequence when required.

School Leaders and parents are informed about any worrying issues or relatively significant or repeated behavioural incidents. Please note that not all parties will always be informed or aware of what a consequence may be; but please be assured that appropriate actions are taken by staff following all behaviour incidents. We are currently updating our Behaviour Policy but the most recent version is available on our website.

*Have a lovely weekend.  
Mrs. E Jones*



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## Safeguarding – Safer Internet Day 11th February

*‘Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online’.*

It’s important that children understand how tricky it is to differentiate between what is safe online, and what is unsafe and could cause harm. I have asked teachers to talk to children about the 2025 Safer Internet Day theme, which is all about scams (in an age-appropriate way). Please back this up at home by explaining that scams are sophisticated, and dishonest groups can deceive people into giving away their personal information, money or valuable items.

An online scam is when this deception is carried out over the Internet so it can appear via emails, chat/DM/messages, websites, gaming platforms and social media. Your child may already be able to tell you about examples of online scams they might come across – ask them if they think they have ever experienced a scam.

I have shared some resources and scenarios with class teachers so that children learn a little more about spotting an online scam – eg it could be a fake prize or reward, an ‘urgent’ message which tricks you into acting before you’ve had chance to think about it, requests for personal information, friend requests, or ads with links.

Please support your children and encourage them to stay calm if they, or someone they know, comes across an online scam. Reassure them that they won’t get into trouble if they accidentally fall for a scam, as it’s more important to come to you for help which might mean blocking a payment or resetting passwords.

Share the **‘Report, Save and Block’** guidance:

- ✓ **Report** - via the online site that you experience it on, then tell a trusted adult about it and ask for help.
- ✓ **Save** - evidence; take screenshots (but don’t download anything from a scam site).
- ✓ **Block** - the person or group of people responsible (or Unsubscribe).

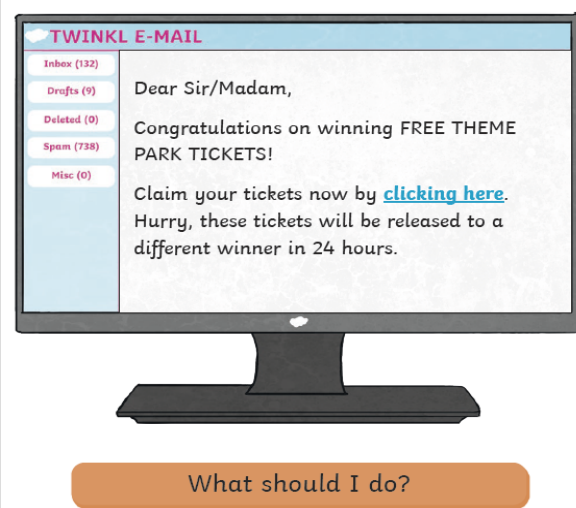
For younger children the **‘Stop, Close, Tell’** approach seems appropriate.

- ✓ **Stop** what you are doing and don’t click on anything else, or reply to any messages.
- ✓ **Close** the laptop or put down your phone or tablet.
- ✓ **Tell** a trusted adult so they can help you.

Please establish with your child who their trusted adult/s are, and discuss how important it is to tell them that adult if they see something they don’t understand, or that upsets them online - this can include family members, older siblings or teachers. You could print out, or design something similar to the attached sheet if you would like to.

Mr M Smith, Designated Safeguarding Lead

I’ve received an email which says I have won free theme park tickets. I did enter a competition recently, but it wasn’t for these tickets. The email has a link to claim the free tickets but I need to claim them within 24 hours.





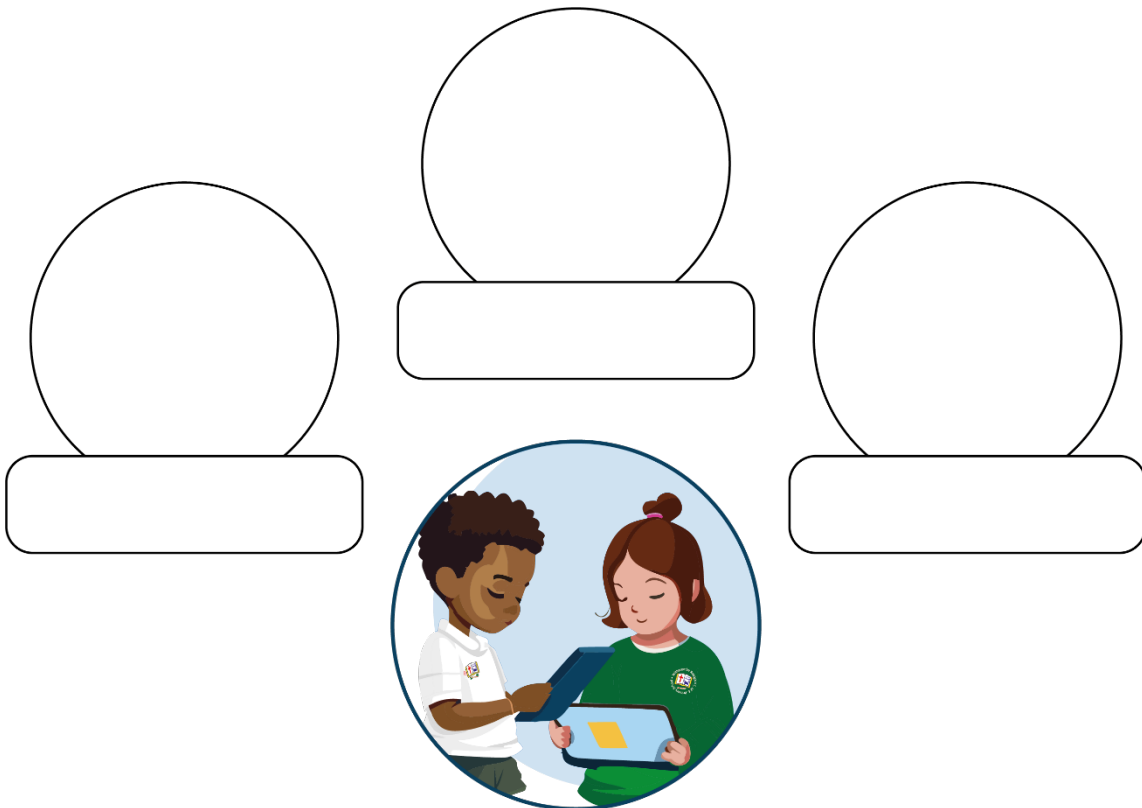
## Online Safety: Stop, Close, Tell!

The internet is amazing when it is used safely and correctly but sometimes things can go wrong. If that happens to you, remember:

- ✓ **Stop** what you are doing and don't click on anything else, or reply to any messages.
- ✓ **Close** the laptop or put down your phone or tablet.
- ✓ **Tell** a trusted adult so they can help you.

### Who could I tell?

These are the trusted adults who can help you if something goes wrong while you are using the internet, or if you see something upsetting or confusing. You could draw their picture and write their name underneath to help you remember.



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## Our School Mental Health Ambassadors

Coinciding with Children's Mental Health Week, on Monday 3rd February 9 of our 11 Mental Health Ambassadors (MHAs) attended a celebration event at Exmouth Community College, organised in association with the Heads Up charity. The event was attended by several Exmouth primary schools and provided an opportunity for all the school MHA pupils to meet and mix.



The MHAs were tasked with making a presentation about their role in their own schools.

Our Withycombe Raleigh Ambassadors delivered an amazing presentation on what they would like to do in our school to help support children's mental health.

The Ambassadors then had the opportunity to try out a range of wellbeing activities. They made sensory bottles, worry dolls, 'all about me' collages, 'my happy space' artwork, played feelings charades and slam dunk. This was a fantastic event and we thank Mrs L Jones and Mrs White for taking the children along, ECC for hosting, and organisers the Heads Up charity for inviting us. We now hope to be able to bring some of these ideas back to Withycombe Raleigh!



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## Sports, and Other Achievements



Evelyn in Maple Class completed her junior park run ultra marathon distance, and also has volunteered for the tenth time.  
Her family are very proud of her!



Max from Barn Owl Class achieved his stage 1 swimming on Monday.  
Well done Max!



Michael got a trophy at football this week! His Coach said  
*"Michael always trains well with a positive attitude, and offering to help me set up today's session shows great team work and attitude!"*



Ivy in Dolphin Class wanted to share that last the weekend she competed at a freestyle dance competition in Chippenham. She was super brave and danced in front of everyone!  
She placed 3rd in her freestyle fast solo and got 1 recall in slow solo, and placed 6th with her pair!  
Brilliant Ivy, well done!



Last week 9 of our Year 6 boys battled through every weather condition going during the second leg of the Exeter City Cup.

The boys were fantastic and came across a superb level of competition, getting knocked out of the semi finals in the cup.

Well done to Arby, Zach, Harry, Travis, Billy, Brad, Olly, Tom and Max. A great effort!

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Last week 24 of our Year 1 children had the opportunity to take part in a multi-sport festival in the hall. They worked at 7 different activity stations, focusing on core strength, fine and gross motor skills, teamwork and reliance, all whilst having great fun!

Well done Year 1 and also well done and thanks to some of the Year 5 students who helped to make things run smoothly!



## WALKABILITY

**Avocet class** completed their **Walkability** challenge on Tuesday. With hoods up and comfortable shoes on, we went out and about on the busy roads to practice crossing safely, making sure we were always aware of our surroundings and any hazards coming our way!

Developed in collaboration with Devon County Council and Vision Zero South West, this structured programme is tailored to equip children in Years 3-6 with vital pedestrian safety skills – developing confidence and responsibility on their journeys to and from school, integrating classroom learning with real-world experiences. Children delve into understanding road signs and their meanings, mastering the Green Cross Code, navigating road crossings, identifying safe routes to cross, and always staying vigilant and aware.

The instructors, trained and supported by Active Devon, conducted classroom-based theory sessions and practical roadside exercises. With a focus on one class at a time, each session spans two hours, ensuring ample time for immersive learning experiences. Well done Avocets, you listened and practiced really well!



*This is a collaborative project between Devon & Cornwall Police, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service, South Western Ambulance Service, National Highways, Devon Air Ambulance, Cornwall Air Ambulance, The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Devon County Council, Cornwall Council, Plymouth Council, Torbay Council, Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust, Plymouth NHS Trust and Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety.*

They share a commitment to cut the number of deaths and serious injuries from collisions in Devon to Zero.