

St John Vianney Catholic School

School Newsletter

Edition: 194 14th January 2022

"Everything we can be, with Christ in our hearts."



Blue Sky Friday

What a beautiful end to the week! The sky was blue, the sun was shining (we got the light but not the heat!) and we ended the week with an assembly on JOY! Year 5 told us it is not difficult to find; we don't need to go searching for it – it is within us and can be shared freely! A joyous week cemented a great start to the year!

We remain cautiously optimistic about the term – yes, we still have lots of disruption, but we are hoping that that is short lived. Please keep doing your best to follow guidance and to do your bit to reduce risk of transmission, and we'll get through it I am sure.

I will be sharing curriculum details with you next week, so you can see what your child is learning this term (and believe me, it's a lot!), but remember, [our curriculum page](#) contains a wealth of information for you to support and engage with your child's learning.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE](#) to see our assembly from this morning...have a lovely, safe weekend and we'll see you on Monday!



Covid Update

General

We remain reliant on the following for keeping transmission away / at a minimum:

- Hygiene (hands, surfaces)
- Ventilation (doors and windows will be opened when required; please ensure children are dressed warmly and able to add /remove a layer)
- Those with symptoms to stay away

NB: DO NOT take a Lateral Flow Home Test if your child has symptoms and is unwell – you MUST book a PCR test in this instance.

If your child is unwell with symptoms:

If your child develops symptoms (as outlined below), book them a PCR test.

- a high temperature (37.5C or above) and isolate.
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste - this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or thing smell or taste different to normal

Notify school if your child has developed symptoms (no child should be in school if they are unwell), and let us know which date the symptoms started.

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

****NEW** From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their 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 test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they 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.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

Close Contacts:

If your child has been identified as a close contact, then they should take a Lateral Flow Test every day for 7 days. They can continue to come to school while they do this. If any of the tests return a positive, then they should isolate for the appropriate period (see above).

Please help us to ensure that disruption and infection is kept to a minimum by following the above carefully; we know that the next few weeks it may cause significant disruption and inconvenience, but we each have a part to play in navigating this latest wave successfully.

Online Safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps that we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

REPLIKA

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

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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CENSORED

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.

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.

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.

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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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 12.01.2022

Nursery Places

- Nursery application forms are now ready. Please email the admin@st-johnvianney.Haringey.sch.uk to make an appointment to collect a form.





STARS OF THE WEEK

THE FORCE IS STRONG IN THESE ONES...



14th Jan 2022

Reception:

Well done Reception class for another great week. As always you have all worked very hard! these two children have really stood out to me this week.

L-J: For being so helpful! You never wait to be told you just see what needs to be done around your classroom and you get on with it. You are working really hard perfecting your self- registration name keep going ! You have been so helpful to your class friends too by helping them open their water bottles if they are finding it tricky playing nicely with them and including them in the games you play. Well done for showing such kindness and good manners.

R: For trying your best to share your ideas more during class carpet time you are extending your ideas by answering more how and why questions. In our RE lesson this week you wrote down what your New Year's resolution will be using the sounds that you know all by yourself writing 'I promise to always be kind to my friends' you always try your best Rayhan well done for good work this week.





STARS OF THE WEEK

THE FORCE IS STRONG IN THESE ONES...



14th Jan 2022

Class 1:

My stars of the week are going to **P** for working hard and making sure that he finishes his tasks on time. He is really making an effort to improve his work and trying to do better all the time.

A is also a great example for other peers to follow. She always sits correctly and listens well during carpet time and then when starting her tasks she will get on with it straight away to make sure that she finishes. She is always trying her best even when things are tricky she will give it a try!





STARS OF THE WEEK

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14th Jan 2022

Class 2:

This week has been very exciting in Class 2! We have been learning how to prepare different kinds of fruit and vegetables to make some tasty smoothies.

My first star this week is **A**. She really took on board the task of creating a smoothie for a child as a healthy snack. From the get-go, she was thinking carefully about which ingredients to choose, thinking about how appealing they would look and taste. Not only that, but she created a bright, eye-catching design for her smoothie carton. I think we have a mini-entrepreneur on our hands!

My next star this week is **A** for his consistently positive attitude both in the classroom and out in the playground. Any problem he is faced with, he finds a solution. He always shows great empathy - he knows how to put himself into other people's shoes, think how he would feel in that situation and act with this in mind. You are a fantastic role model, well done!





STARS OF THE WEEK

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14th Jan 2022

Class 3:

It is becoming increasingly difficult to choose stars each week in Class 3. Not a day goes by that an adult comes to me to compliment and praise the children for their outstanding attitude in lessons and in the playground. They are held as role models for everything that is expected in our school. I am extremely proud to be your teacher Class 3.

This week I have chosen 3 children who exemplify these qualities. My first star goes to **M**. He constantly tries his best in everything he does. This week we have been looking at 'Length' in Maths and he has been able to explain how to convert units of measure using clear and accurate language. He is a kind and patient maths partner who always encourages whoever he works with. Keep it up! I would also like to give a star to **P**. His work ethic and desire to learn is exemplary. He always listens carefully and engages in whatever is being taught. His enthusiasm and curiosity is infectious. This week we have been writing the text for the wordless book 'The Quest'. His writing is both creative and original, he has been brave with his word choices and generous with his ideas. Amazing work - well done!

My third star goes to **A** who not only delighted me with her creative writing this week but impressed Mr Quin and Ms Griffin so much that her work was used as an example of excellence in Year 5! She is an ardent reader and a truly inspiring writer. Well done!





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Class 4:

This week I nominate **N**. His attitude towards work this week has been exceptional. Throughout the week he has shown he is ready for learning. He is a great role model to others and I can always rely on him to set a great example for others to copy. Furthermore, he has been a very helpful member of the class and volunteers to do jobs around the classroom. Every day he is there to give a helping hand. Well done!

I also nominate **F**. She has been outstanding in Maths this week and has been able to fluently conquer long division! In addition, she has been able to explain to others how to work out a particular question and support them with their work too. A fantastic teacher! During each Maths lesson I am always impressed with her attitude towards work. She is focused from start to finish. Fantastic work!





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Class 5:

S - for being an example of how to learn an unfamiliar method and concept. Looking at division methods this week, Solomon asked for help immediately when he didn't understand the method. He listened attentively whilst the method was being explained again. He rehearsed the method with a small group and then independently worked hard to show his new understanding in his maths book. Very well done! **R**- for being focused and on task all of the time. An example of this was in Computing this week when Remy settled quickly to the task and diligently completed it to the best of his ability. Well done!





STARS OF THE WEEK

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Class 6:

Well done to all of year 6 this week for their continued hard work!

A is a star of the week for being a supportive member of class. He is always eager to help his friends and will involve himself in whole class and group discussions. He is a determined member of the class and shows enthusiasm throughout everything that he does.

E is also star of the week for excellent work in art. She has a good colour sense and uses this to good effect in her work.

Furthermore, she always shows great pride and care in her art work and confidently uses any new technique she is introduced to. She is a very talented artist.





celebrate!

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

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