



Two Rivers Primary School News

February 2024: Issue 7

Headteacher's Message

Diary Dates:

Thursday 7th March

World Book Day – pop up book shop after school

Friday 8th March

Mother's Day Event,
Y1,3 & 4 10:00-10:45,
B1,3 & 4 11:00-11:45

Tuesday 19th March

Easter Craft Afternoon
R2,Y2,B2

Wednesday 20th March

Easter Craft Afternoon
R1,R3,Y1,Y3

Thursday 21st March

Easter Craft Afternoon
Y4,B1,B3,B4

Wednesday 20th March

Parent Library Session -
After School

Friday 22nd March

Easter Parade and
egg competition

Friday 22nd March

Last day of term

Monday 8th April

First day of term

You will receive more information about these events nearer to the time.

As Easter fast approaches we look forward to the completion of our roof works. Staff are busily sorting equipment and resources to brighten our outside areas once all of the scaffolding has been removed. Some of our playgrounds have been resurfaced and some grass has been removed so hopefully playtimes will be less muddy and the spaces will be more accessible.

As the weather brightens classes will take the opportunity to explore the local environment and head out of school to experience enrichment activities developing their independent skills. Trips this month have included: Ashend Farm, Twycross Zoo, Church Farm and local community visits.

In school we have been exploring our new library and thank everyone who has been able to attend the parent library sessions. We will be running more sessions and hope you will be able to bring along siblings to enjoy our books together as a family.

A new school initiative is for our animals to visit classes and stay for the week. So far, the rabbits have been to class for the day returning to their hutches at night and then returning to class the next day. The children have really enjoyed this experience and we are planning for the guinea pigs to also be on this rota system. For classes where children have allergies, the animals have been out in the corridors.

This month we have also held a series of sensory Occupational Health (OT) parent workshops. Megan our OT from Children's choice explained what sensory OT is and the activities parents can do at home to support your children. Due to popularity we are hoping to hold further sessions for parents unable to attend this first round of sessions.

Sarah the school hairdresser continues to support our families so please look out for messages on Weduc to say when she will be coming if you are interested in having your child's haircut.

May we also take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Kindest regards

Marie Povey – Deputy Head



Purple and EYFS

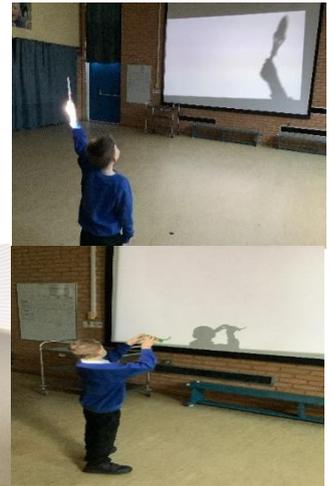
Our new topic is traditional tales. Last week we shared the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children enjoyed playing in soil and planting their own magic beans and practising their climbing. All the children contributed to a class beanstalk by painting leaves and decorating a golden egg for our traditional tales display. This week it is 'Goldilocks and the three Bears'. Porridge anyone?...





Red 1 and 3

To finish off our learning in Spring 1, we explored shadows in Science. The children enjoyed using their bodies and stick puppets to create shadows using the light from the projector and the big screen in the hall.



In Geography, Red 3 rounded off their transport topic with a trip into Tamworth on the local Arriva bus. We enjoyed buying and showing our tickets, finding our seats and pressing the bell to let the driver know when we wanted to get off!



Both classes continue to enjoy their weekly Forest School sessions and have been braving the colder weather for short periods to explore the great outdoors! We have also had the excitement of the Living Eggs project in school, with the eggs hatching into chicks for us to look after.





We also learned about some of the important Kings and Queens of England and designed our own crowns to wear.





Red 2

In Red 2 this half term we are starting our new topic 'Over the rainbow' which is all about colours. We have a variety of multi-sensory stories to explore this half term such as 'colour with ladybird', 'brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?' and 'monsters love colour'. We are also very excited for World Book Day – our story is 'brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?'

We are going to be carrying on with our therapies such as rebound, attention autism, play box, TacPac and intensive interaction. In PE we have enjoyed exploring throwing, catching and kicking balloons around the hall.

So far this half term we have explored a variety of colours through lots of different ways such as printing coloured bubbles, making a colour catcher, exploring different textures and foods of different colours and we have explored the season Spring.

We are also looking at our personal hygiene such as washing our hands and face and brushing our teeth.

We are looking forward to the rest of our half term with lots of exciting activities to come





Yellow 1

Yellow 1 have been finishing off our topic 'Amazing Animals' and started a new topic 'Out of this World'.

The children started the topic off with a WOW starter, Astronaut training! They created their own Astronaut picture and said what they would like to explore in space, they enjoyed the day and rotated round different activities.



In English we have been making stars and discussing where we would go to if we could fly like a star or Kite. The children have shown a big interest in flying to the moon! We read the story 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffer which they liked and started to compare Fact and Fiction books.



In Science the students are exploring light and dark, what gives us light, reflections and shadows. We are looking forward to exploring lots of different tools and materials in order to find this out. In Maths we will be creating and interpreting block graphs and developing our knowledge of 3D shapes and their properties.

At the end of the first half term we took a trip to Twycross Zoo, we looked at a range of animals and were able to identify the animal group they came from after learning about this over the past few weeks.

Yellow 1 students have also started to have music sessions with Sharon, she comes in on a Tuesday morning to deliver some exciting music sessions.





Yellow 2

Yellow 2 have had a great time exploring the great outdoors during our community visits to Pooley Park. The children have been promoting their gross motor skills through climbing, walking, and running. The children have been supported in your transitions by using a PEC communication card to inform them when it is time to transition to the bus. The children have also enjoyed exploring natural items such as leaf's, trees and flowers.



In phonics we have enjoyed exploring different instrumental sounds. The children have enjoyed experimenting with the instrument sounds themselves.



The children have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year through a sensory story and food tasting.





Yellow 3

This half term Yellow 3 topic is "Out of this world", we really enjoyed our Wow starter day where we moved around the classes Yellow 1, Yellow 3 and Yellow 4 exploring lots of different space themed activities. We made rockets out of straws, explored space themed playdough, made constellations out of marshmallows and had our own space walk in the hall.



In Art and DT we have been looking at the work of Peter Thorpe and creating our own rocket pictures, we have also been making our own rockets out of different junk materials.

Just before half term Yellow 3 had a fabulous trip to Twycross Zoo. The children were all so well behaved and loved seeing the different animals. Some of the favourites included the meercats, the big tortoise and the giraffe.





Yellow 4

At the end of last half term, the children had a fantastic day out at Twycross, as part of their Amazing Animals topic.



The children used the maps to find whereabouts of the animals in the zoo, and to decide which way to walk. Yellow 4 had a great time walking around the zoo observing all the animals, and their various antics!





At lunchtime we were joined by a very friendly lion to see what we had got to eat in our packed lunches. In the afternoon the children visited the Education Centre, and found out about the different groups of animals and the diets of different animals.





We have started our new topic "Out Of This World". As part of our WOW starter the children took part in several activities as part of their astronaut training.



The children had a great time finding out about astronauts and completing their rigorous astronaut training. The training involved moving moon rocks, dodging meteorites, launching rockets, writing upside down due to zero gravity, identifying constellations, and using space buggies to get around. All children passed their astronaut training and received a certificate to show they had successfully completed their training.



In art we have been looking at the abstract space pictures created by Peter Thorpe, the children practised using oil pastels and making their own space images.





Blue 1

Welcome back Blue 1 what an exciting half term we have ahead of us!

Righteous Royals

This half term our topic is Righteous Royals. We will be learning all about Kings and Queens of the past and how their actions changed history.

To start our exciting topic we had a WOW starter. Blue 1 became princess and princesses for the day by making crowns and completing other royal activities. In the afternoon we had a banquet and a ball. We are pretty sure that King Charles likes to dance to 'What does the fox say?' 😊 We are so excited to learn more as the weeks progress and visit a real castle.



Art

in Art this week we learnt all about coats of arms. The children learnt that they were used as a form of identifying individuals in battle.

Blue 1 designed their own by adding an animal which represented their character. Each animal had its own meaning. The lion represented courage and a dog represented loyalty.

To finish off their coat of arms the children adding things they liked and decorated them in.



This Photo by Unknown



Jigsaw

We have started a new topic in jigsaw, 'Healthy Me'.

We have talked about how we can make healthy choices for both our minds and bodies and start to recognize what we can do to be calm for our bodies and minds.



Super Starters

Something new for Blue 1! Every morning when we arrive at school we have starter activities to help us develop memory and learning skills which will help us learn better across the curriculum. On a Monday we focus on Mindfulness techniques to help us enjoy and engage with the week ahead. On Tuesday we practice our memory skills playing a variety of games to improve our recall. On Wednesday we focus on fine manipulative skills with a range of threading, cutting and drawing activities. This will help us to write with increased control and also to dress ourselves and use cutlery. On Thursday we explore Brain Gym activities which help us to improve our large body movements and our cross lateral coordination. Finally, on a Friday we read for enjoyment and practice spelling. In this session we show off the skills we have learnt during the weeks 20/20 sessions. Ask your child which Super Starter they enjoy the most!





Blue 2

This month Blue 2 have been very busy enjoying lots of different activities, the children have been practicing their writing, numbers and have been using the library for their reading sessions. We have also been working hard on our independence skills and have been done lots of handwashing following instructions and drying hands, before snack, lunch and after toilet sessions, the children are becoming less reliant on adults for prompts. The children have been working together to create a large decorated Easter Egg to be used as part of Rosliston's Easter hunt. We have used our handprints on the egg.

We have also been learning about how we are different and making positive relationships. We have created our own self portraits in ICT.



We have continued to enjoy our music sessions on a Friday and we like to join in playing the gathering drums. We have been role playing hairdressers and have sat and brushed hair and some of the children have had a go at putting bobbles into hair.

At the end of January we visited Ash End Farm and had a lovely day seeing all of the animals and going on a tractor ride. We have also visited planters as part of our community visits and the children loved the animals and fish.





Blue 3

This half term our topic is looking at past and present royalty. We began with a fabulous WOW starter afternoon of being princesses, Princes Kings and Queens. We attended a royal banquet and made some crowns to wear.



This half term we are focusing our skills on Tennis. The children could locate the correct equipment used in Tennis and was able to warm up safely and understood why we warm up. we have already showed good levels of skill when controlling a ball.





In English we have visited our Library and searched for books that are both fiction and non-fiction. We had to look for certain fact books which included the Royal family. We have also found some facts about the Royal family and wrote sentences about them.



In Happy minds sessions we look at how the brain can respond to our different choices, emotions and memory's. In Jigsaw PSHE we are focusing on Healthy choices.

We work in a group and take it in turns answering questions, making choices and working together. When it is our turn to speak we have Jigsaw Jo to help us and this helps us talk about the topics.





Blue 4

This month Blue 4 have been taking part in lots of different celebrations. We have celebrated Valentines day by creating cards. Chinese New Year by trying Chinese food, making lanterns and egg box dragons and by giving red envelopes as gifts. We have also celebrated Safer internet day and Number day, we have had lots of fun!

Chinese New Year



Number Day





Sign of the Week



Brave

Flat hand moves slightly forward to GOOD hand

You can see how to do the sign here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCCFq9XmVAg&list=PLI9Vwf4A9R2SWL4cbnWjloHy92tjxXmU9>

Whole Class Attendance

| Group | % Attend |
|----------|----------|
| PURPLE | 96.7% |
| RED 1 | 94.4% |
| RED 2 | 90.1% |
| RED 3 | 94.7% |
| YELLOW 1 | 91.2% |
| YELLOW 2 | 93.4% |
| YELLOW 3 | 96.9% |
| YELLOW 4 | 94.9% |
| BLUE 1 | 92.9% |
| BLUE 2 | 93.4% |
| BLUE 3 | 94.9% |
| BLUE 4 | 86.2% |

Congratulations to:

Yellow 3



You have the best



Attendance for the Month





Safe and Well with Richard and Sue



Richard Bryan, DSL



Sue Forest, Family Liaison

What do grapes and mini eggs have in common?

It's that time of year again when mini eggs are lining the supermarket shelves even though Easter is still a few weeks away. However, you need to be aware that, just like grapes, they are the perfect size to block a small child's airway and choke them. Their hard shell can make it difficult to dislodge them using standard first aid techniques.

Child Accident Prevention Trust advise that with whole grapes you should cut them in half lengthways and ideally into quarters to create thin strips. But, chopping up mini eggs isn't as easy. So, what can you do?

1. Hide them from the children and eat them yourself – good luck with that!
2. Put the mini eggs into a sealable plastic bag and smash them into small pieces with a rolling pin. You could also crush them in a pestle and mortar
3. Choose a different treat, larger hollow eggs are much safer for little ones.



You can learn more about common choking hazards and what you should do in an emergency at: <https://capt.org.uk/choking-prevention/>

Please remember to ask us here in the Family Support Team if we can do anything to help you.

Richard and Sue

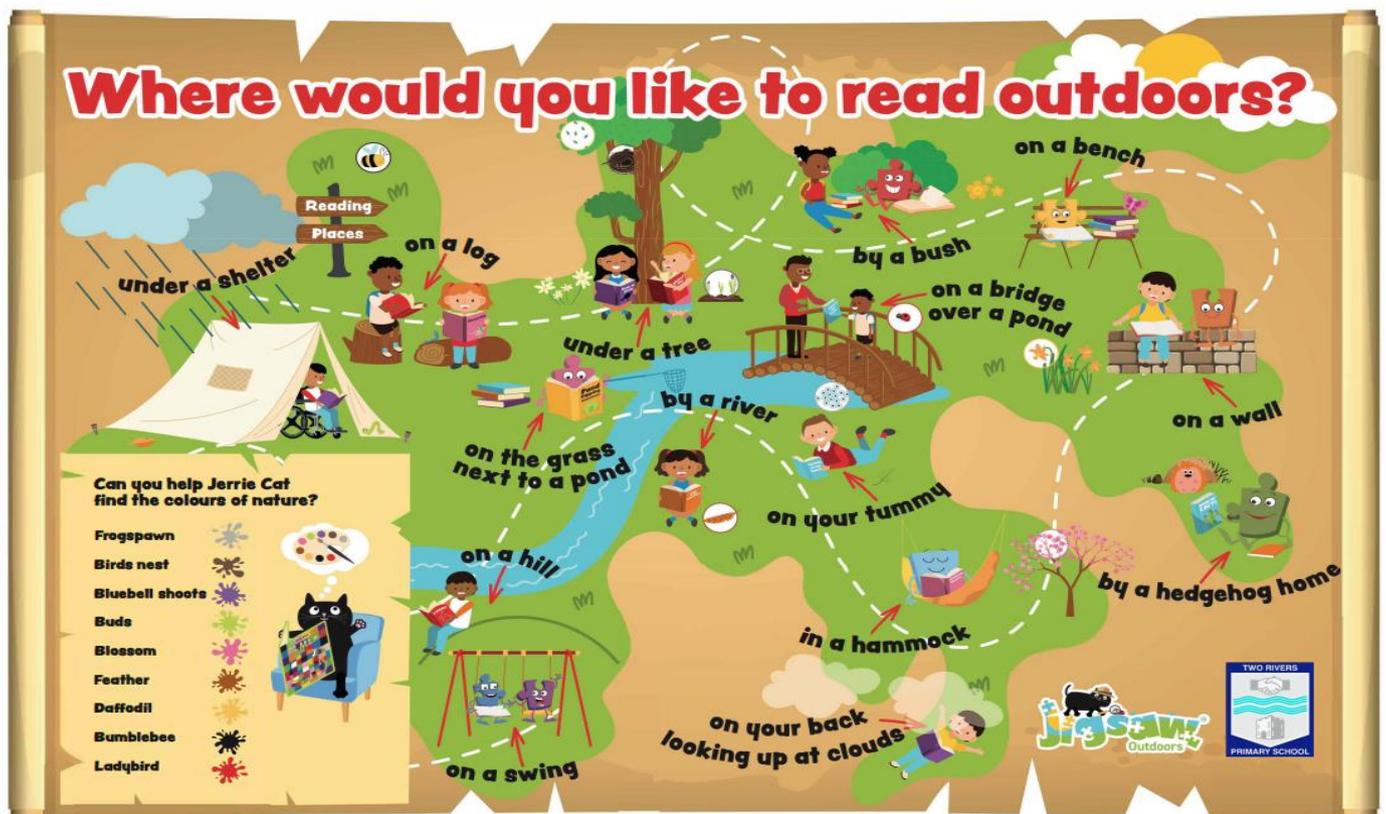


Library

This month we have had a lot of classes coming in to use the library. Children have been using the Tonie boxes, reading to Millie Dog, experiencing read aloud stories and enjoying sensory stories. Children are also developing their independence skills with our library software, signing their library books in and out by themselves. We have had lovely sessions after school with parents and carers coming to share a story with their children and borrowing books for home. I have also had my librarians working hard, they are learning how to put books back on the shelves correctly and how to start and review books they have read.



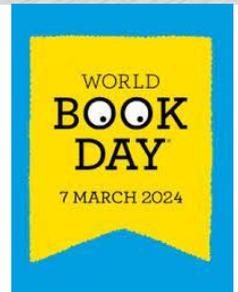
I have attached some fun outdoor reading ideas for you to complete as the weather improves.



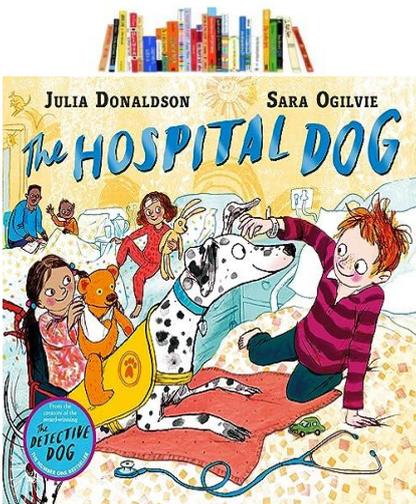


World Book Day 2024

Keep your eyes out for more information about what we are doing to celebrate World Book Day in school in March and about our book fair coming to school. We will also be sending out a reading home learning challenge.



RECOMMENDED READS



The recommended read for February is *The Hospital Dog* by Julia Donaldson and Sara Ogilvie.

Dog loves visiting the children of Wallaby Ward and they're always pleased to see her too; from a crying baby to a bored teenager – a pat, a stroke and a cuddle with Dot cheers everyone up. But the work of the hospital dog doesn't stop there and when one of her patients is in trouble, it's up to Dot to save the day! Dot the hospital dog is everyone's favourite visitor in this story of bravery and friendship from Julia Donaldson and Sara Ogilvie - the creators of the Number 1 bestselling picture book, *The Detective Dog*.

You can watch the story being read here - <https://youtu.be/zBkJNUR7Jrw?si=xrlrNjuC59VINzct>

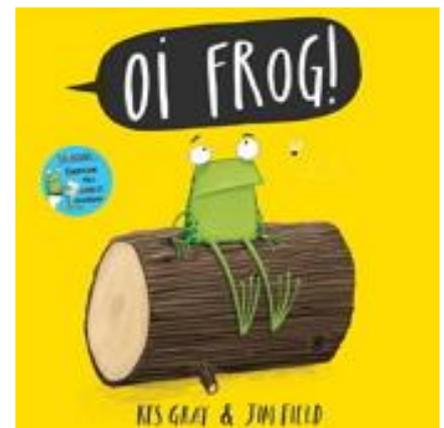
The Bug Club Reading Corner recommended read for February is *Oi Frog!* by Kes Gray and Jim Field.

Cats sit on mats, hares sit on chairs, mules sit on stools and gophers sit on sofas, but Frog does not want to sit on a log! A hilarious rhyming tale about a frog who discovers that all animals have their special places to sit!

Available to read at - <https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/resource/1103469>

Available to watch at - https://youtu.be/2da5yu6rpdg?si=x-0mTSGLyXn_9cpY

Reading Corner





Pets as Therapy

As well as reading to Millie (as above) the children have introduced her to their classroom and started being able to communicate with Millie, she is now getting lots of children saying hello in their own ways such as signing dog, woofing or saying Millie Dog. Children are building a relationship with Millie and their confidence is growing.

Here are some photos of Millie and the children as they complete their jobs.



Any questions regarding the library, reading for pleasure or Millie the Pets As Therapy dog please do contact me. Gina 😊



School Council

Meet this year's School Council Representatives.



Easter plans are now in progress. Look out for posters (coming soon) for our Easter Egg competition and Easter Bonnet parade.

This Month's Winning Houses

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Week 1 | Trent |
| Week 2 | Severn |
| Week 3 | Trent |





10 Top Tips for Respect Online: INSPIRING CHILDREN TO BUILD A BETTER DIGITAL WORLD

Our ability to communicate with anyone in the world, at any time, via the internet has grown at breakneck speed. For teachers and parents, it can feel impossible to keep up. Worrying about our young people is understandable, and not unjustified: In 2020, for example, one in five 10- to 15-year-olds experienced bullying online. Our tips highlight ways that adults can support young people's positive online behaviours: by adopting and following 'netiquette', we can show them how to avoid getting into difficulty as they learn to negotiate the continually evolving digital landscape.

WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Just like etiquette is a set of rules which guides and governs our interactions with others in everyday life, netiquette – etiquette on the net – is the framework which helps inform how we communicate with people online. The rules of engagement often aren't the same as a face-to-face meeting, so it's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

1 ACCEPT DIFFERENT RULES

A lot of our interaction with others is helped by non-verbal signals like body language and facial expressions. Online, of course, many of these clues are missing. Talk to your child about why this makes misunderstandings more likely to occur in the digital world and why keeping in mind that online communication is a very different process can help to prevent difficulties from arising.

2 PRESS 'PAUSE'

It's so easy to do things quickly online that most people (adults included) habitually send or respond to messages without considering the consequences. Pushing 'the pause button' buys a young person some time while they ponder the golden rule: "Would I still say this if the other person was right front of me?" You could practise this with your child on some made-up tricky situations.

3 THE INTERNET IS ADDICTIVE

Apps and sites use sophisticated algorithms and clever marketing to keep us engaged, while notifications to our devices are designed to draw us back in. It's no wonder that people continually return to the digital world, sometimes spending long periods of time there. You and your child could trial turning off notifications on certain apps and instead agree a time to check for updates manually.

4 BEWARE THE DARK SIDE

Getting a hurtful or unhelpful comment on social media or in a group chat can make the recipient feel publicly shamed. That's painful for anyone – but especially for a young person whose status in a group is integral to their sense of identity. Encourage your child to think about the best and safest way to send a message: for example, doing it as a private message rather than a public post.

5 HARMFUL INTERACTIONS

Unfortunately, it's very easy to send a hurtful message or to spread gossip and rumours online. We all know this happens regularly. Not having to deal with actually seeing the other person's distress usually doesn't help people to make a positive decision in the moment. It's important that trusted adults help children to visualise the potential consequences and have empathy for others.

6 APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES

We're all built differently; some people are simply more emotionally sensitive than others. Young people can be particularly affected by negative online communication, such as group shaming. Even a single message (which might seem trivial at face value) can cause deep anguish. Trusted adults should be prepared to be patient and listen to any difficulties their child might have had online.

7 ACCENTUATED ANXIETY

Young people's online lives create a lot of anxiety. Messages go into a 'black hole' until someone responds, there are more reasons to compare ourselves negatively, and social media can make us feel like we're missing out. Encourage activities such as sports and hobbies to balance this out, and remember that merely blocking out thoughts (by gaming, for instance) isn't the same as relaxation.

8 PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A huge positive for the internet is how it helps people to feel connected and makes being kind and helpful easy to spread. When young people get involved in pro-social behaviours online, it creates a positive feedback loop which makes them feel good. Show your child examples of when you've done or said something positive online, and praise and encourage them when they do the same.

9 BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

One of the best things we can do as trusted adults is to role model positive online behaviour. Just letting your child see that you know when it's time to put your phone away and do something more productive can set a strong example. Some families set aside particular times of the week (such as mealtimes or a family walk) where digital devices aren't allowed and conversation takes precedence.

10 SHOW COMPASSION

Mistakes can feel much bigger online, because they're so public. If a young person does or says something regrettable on the internet, it's important to support them to forgive themselves, learn any lessons and move forward positively. Even as adults, we can often stumble when learning how things work in the fast-moving digital world, so it's important to have compassion for ourselves, too.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.

