

## **Book Swap 2022**

Thank you to all those who took part in the book swap. The children had a lovely time in the hall choosing a book to bring home.

*Keep your eyes peeled for next week's' newsletter. We will be sharing photos from World Book Day and from our Random Reader Competition.*

## **Separation and divorce**

Find out your rights around child contact and get advice for supporting children during a separation.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/separation-and-divorce/>



### **Football Fitness AfterCare**

Please remember that all bookings and communications should be made directly with Football Fitness. Our Admin Team don't have the information you need, so please try to contact Steve, Lee or Tom directly.

### Dr Gina Rippon

Gina Rippon has had a career in higher education, teaching psychology and neuroscience on undergraduate and postgraduate courses. She is a Professor Emeritus of Cognitive NeuroImaging at Aston University in Birmingham. Using brain imaging techniques, her research has focussed on developmental disorders such as developmental dyslexia and autism spectrum disorders. She also investigates claims about sex differences in the brain and, in 2019, published a popular science book 'The Gendered Brain', debunking some of the brain and behaviour myths behind gender stereotypes. She has written about the effects of gender stereotypes in the early years and served on the recent Fawcett Society Commission. She is a member of Speakers4Schools and has given a wide range of science-based talks to many secondary schools in the UK, especially the Midlands. Her grandson was a pupil at the Grange School between 2014 and 2017.

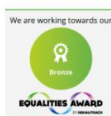


### CHILDREN'S ABSENCE

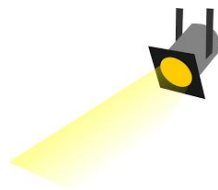
**If your child is unable to attend School because they are unwell, please ensure you call the absence line on 01327 705785 and Press Option 1. Please clearly leave a message of your Child's Name, Class and the reason for their absence.**

**The phone line is open 24 hours a day. If we have not heard from you by 9.00am, and are unaware of your child's absence we will call all of your contact numbers until we are able to speak to someone. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.**

# Dream Believe Achieve



# SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIAL NEEDS



## Contact Us:

-  [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer)
-  [localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@northamptonshire.gov.uk)
-  01604 366124
-  The Northamptonshire Local Offer,  
One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton NN1 1ED

## Join Us on Social Media:

-  [www.facebook.com/LONorthants](http://www.facebook.com/LONorthants)
-  [www.instagram.com/lonorthants](http://www.instagram.com/lonorthants)
-  [www.pinterest.co.uk/lonorthants](http://www.pinterest.co.uk/lonorthants)
-  [www.twitter.com/LONorthants](http://www.twitter.com/LONorthants)
-  <https://tinyurl.com/LONorthantsYouTube>

There is free Internet access in local libraries for users searching the Local Offer website. Information can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.



## Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND): Northamptonshire's Local Offer

The Local Offer is a website for young people, families, and professionals who work with them, that sets out in one place, information about local services.

[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer)



## Use the Local Offer Website to Find Information About:

### Education

- Schools (including Special Schools and Units) and Out-of-County Schools
- Colleges and Post-16 Settings
- Apprenticeships, Internships, and Training
- School Transport

### Health Services

- School Nurses and Health Visitors
- Sensory Impairment Services
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Speech and Language Therapy

### Social Care

- Short Breaks
- Residential Short Breaks
- Transitions

### Groups and Activities

- Parent Support Groups
- Youth Groups and Playgroups
- Sport Clubs
- Online Groups

### Finance and Funding

- Personal Budgets
- Grants
- Charities

### Education, Health and Care Services for SEND

- Legislation and the Code of Practice
- Request for Statutory Assessment (RSA) Processes
- Annual Reviews of EHC Plans

### Preparing for Adulthood

- Services for Young Adults Leaving Statutory Education
- Easy Read Guides



## More than Just a Website:

### Social Media

Northamptonshire's Local Offer has an active social media presence, which was planned as a response to local requests. Information about activities, events, and opportunities to consult are shared regularly, and are valued highly by the local community of parents and professionals.



### SNIX

The Northamptonshire disabled children's register is managed by the Local Offer team and families who sign up to it (see the 'Get Involved' page) can receive a copy of the termly 'SNIX' magazine.

### Feedback and Co-Production

Feedback and co-production is a really important part of the Local Offer. The legislation requires the publication of comments submitted and the actions taken as a result. Comments might be about the services provided as well as the content on the Local Offer.

The Local Offer team actively seek participation from all users, and especially value comments from young people as well as their parents.

The Local Offer will provide information to the commissioners based on the comments received from parents and young people.

Information about the support available for children and young people with SEND is available on the Local Offer website. While the processes are defined by the Code of Practice, comments and feedback will be considered as part of the commitment to continual improvement.



### Consultations

Links to public consultations are available on the Local Offer website, and will also be shared via social media. Both local and national consultations will be available.



# What Parents Need to Know about NFTs

Wink is a messaging app which allows children to connect and communicate with other users. In a similar style to Tinder, Wink uses the swipe method for browsing profiles and accepting or declining them. Once two users have accepted each other by swiping on each other's profile, they can then communicate and play games online together. The fact that Wink allows children to share photos, personal information and their location with other users has caused significant concern.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as grooming, cyberbullying and

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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about NFTs (NON-FUNGIBLE TOKENS)

A non-fungible token, or NFT, is a unique digital record of a particular file – such as an image, audio track or video (non-fungible meaning it can't be replaced by an identical item). NFTs let digital content producers like artists and designers control how their work is distributed and monetised. The offline equivalent would be owning a limited-edition art print, signed by the artist, with a certificate of authentication. The value of the tokens is incredibly volatile, unregulated and very much based on hype, publicity and marketing. These digital assets – typically collectibles, avatars for social media profiles or character add-ons for online games – are traded in specialised marketplaces using cryptocurrency.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### FAKE COLLECTIONS

When searching for a particular collection of NFTs, it is common for fake versions to display alongside the originals, which can easily fool a less experienced buyer. Larger projects will be verified, but small ones will not, so check the volume that has been traded and check the activity to verify authenticity – fake collections will have almost no trading history.

#### LACK OF CLARITY

Buying a limited-edition print of a painting isn't the same thing as owning the original. Likewise, when someone buys an NFT, they're not acquiring ownership rights to an original work. Some buyers don't realise that – since many NFTs are publicly on view – purchasing one doesn't stop other people from making their own copies of your NFT (by saving a screenshot of it, for example). Sneak peeks of NFTs can also falsely advertise what the purchaser is investing in, leaving buyers disappointed in what they actually receive, and as they are unregulated, there isn't a procedure for returns and refunds.

#### IP THEFT & "WASHTRADING"

Many online thieves steal NFTs to sell, while another common scam is "washtrading". Here, an unscrupulous trader creates aliases to buy the same NFT multiple times at increasing prices (so A sells to B for 10, who sells to C for 100, who then sells to D for 300 – except A, B, and C are actually all the same person). The goal is to lure in naive speculators with the illusion of a juicy opportunity.

#### STORAGE ISSUES

An NFT is cryptocurrency which is linked to an additional file containing a digital asset. Due to the cost of storing data on a blockchain, it's typical for a project founder to store only the NFT's transaction record "on chain" to prove ownership – with the accompanying asset stored "off chain". Whether that storage is in the cloud or on a personal server, it needs to be permanently secure or the asset could be lost. So in a large number of cases, the NFT contains a link that points to the image data: it is not the image data itself.

#### TRANSACTION COSTS

Issuing an NFT requires "minting" it and any future sales require updating a blockchain ledger to transfer ownership. The cost of this – depending on the blockchain and market conditions – can vary wildly, based on supply and demand of "block space". In 2021, the fees paid for NFT transactions on one blockchain regularly cost more than the value of the asset itself, often by hundreds of US dollars.

#### PHISHING EMAILS & REPLICA SITES

There have been instances of messages being sent advertising the availability of new NFTs with a link to a fake website with a very similar URL to an authentic site. Users then link their crypto wallet to the site, are able to "mint" the fake NFT, and once you press "confirm", the cryptocurrency leaves your wallet and you are left without the NFT you were promised, and very much out of pocket.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### CHECK AUTHORSHIP

Don't buy NFTs from unknown sources, and be wary of trading outside of official marketplaces. Branded NFTs, like those sold by sports franchises, are typically available via a platform that's easy to authenticate. However, NFTs sold by individual artists can be harder to verify. Research their online reputation to ensure they have a consistent track record of authorship and a recognised cryptocurrency wallet before you send a payment.

#### WALLET SECURITY

Wallet security can be the difference between keeping NFTs secure and having them stolen. There are two primary types: a hot wallet (such as metamask) is used for minting NFTs and general day-to-day interactions with third-party sites. A cold wallet (or "vault") is for storing high-value assets, as interactions can't take place without physical confirmation on the hardware. Only buy these from official sites and not from third-party sellers (including Amazon).

#### DON'T GAMBLE

Beginners should avoid investing significant sums of money and gambling on future NFT prices. Anyone can create NFTs: this potentially infinite supply of "limited-edition" collections means that, eventually, 99% of NFTs will likely be worth nothing. The market is largely based around building hype and making people believe that the next project will be the one that makes them rich. Take time over your decision and ensure you fully understand a project before getting involved.

#### SPOT THE SCAMS

Learn what type of message a hacker will leave. They'll often try to create the illusion that you're one of a select few who has this incredible, limited-time opportunity. These can appear on official pages via hacking, so be wary of this pressure-buying tactic. Hackers also send links outside official channels, such as on message boards and private messages. Turn off direct messaging from the server when you join, and never click links that aren't on a project's official page.

#### RESEARCH THE SPACE

If you're interested in NFTs and you've learned the basics of cryptocurrency, talk to people who are already involved in the space (like an NFT alpha group) on authentic marketplaces. Research the projects you're considering investing in to avoid scammers: follow the project on Twitter or Discord and review the work they've done before – avoid artists and teams who insist on remaining anonymous.

### Meet Our Expert

JP Verghe is Associate Professor at the UCL School of Management and a researcher at the UCL Centre for Blockchain Technologies. His award-winning research on technology and organisation has been published in leading academic journals as well as in two books. JP is also a speaker and startup advisor. He tweets at @firstorg.

