

How YOU helped Teacher Tapp make a difference in 2023

Why do 10,500 teachers answer questions on Teacher Tapp every day? We get asked this a lot. And the answer – beyond the fact people like to see the answers and get the daily read – is that the data helps to make a difference.

So how have we done that in 2023? In total we have:

- Featured your voices in over 150 media stories (more below!)
- Published a [major report into teacher recruitment and retention](#)
- Given [evidence in parliament](#) about flexible workload (and why it's harder than it may seem for leaders)
- Participated in over 20 education conferences – sharing insights to leaders and policymakers so they make better decisions

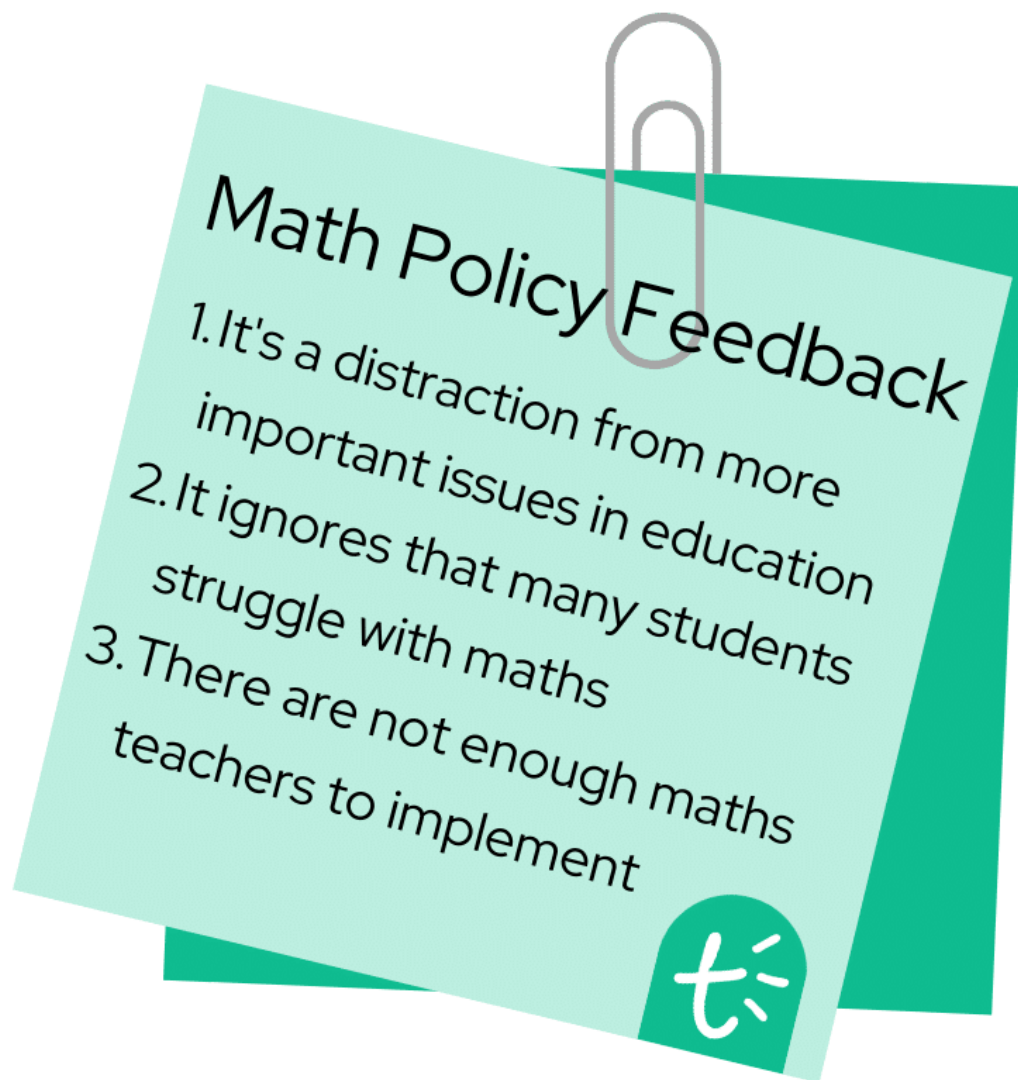
We have also:

- Sent out over £15,000 worth of books and prizes to lucky tappers!
- Won a [global edtech competition](#)
- Introduced the ability to save Daily Reads in the app

Give us more! Give us more! Want more on the successes of this year? Here you go...

January

In January, the PM announced an 'ambition' to have all young people study maths in some form to 18 so we sent a 6-point summary of your thoughts on the plan to Number 10 (see the full list of responses [here](#)).



In addition, Teacher Tapp co-founder and CEO, Laura McInerney featured on LBC talking about school funding and Teacher Tapp data was included in [Schools Week](#), TES, [Conservative Home](#), [The HeadTeacher](#), [The Guardian](#), [Nursery World](#), [The Express](#), and [iNews](#).

February

The first wave of school strikes took place in February and Teacher Tapp played an important role in making sure your voices were heard and the proportion of striking teachers was accurately reported.

Did you spot Teacher Tapp on the front page of [The Times](#) or [The Evening Standard](#)? Or maybe you saw Teacher Tapp's Laura McInerney on [Newsnight](#) (worth a watch for the comedy of Lord Baker's endlessly ringing phone!)



So did you watch it? TV's 15 best water-cooler scenes



INSIDE TIMES2

I can solve Charles's coronation problem
Robert Crampton

Pressure mounts on 'randomly rude and abrasive' Raab

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor
Henry Zeffman
Associate Political Editor

Dominic Raab has been formally criticised by a permanent secretary he worked with in evidence to the official inquiry into his behaviour. As the deputy prime minister faces mounting questions about his future,

he is understood to be facing claims of routinely humiliating civil servants in several government departments, with dozens of officials now having made formal allegations against him.

Rishi Sunak said yesterday that he acted 'swiftly and decisively' in sacking Nadhim Zahawi as Conservative Party chairman after an investigation found that he repeatedly broke the ministerial

code over failing to declare an investigation and tax penalty from HMRC. The prime minister is now facing new questions about why he reappointed Raab to the Ministry of Justice despite documented complaints about him dating from last March. Downing Street insisted last night that Sunak was not aware of any complaints about Raab when he made him his deputy in

October. Adam Tolley KC is investigating complaints against Raab, who was foreign secretary, justice secretary and deputy prime minister under Boris Johnson before being sacked by Liz Truss. One civil servant who worked with Raab said that he was 'very rude and abrasive, sometimes totally randomly' and for 'arbitrary' reasons. Raab denies bullying and has vowed

to 'thoroughly rebut and refute' the allegations against him. But in the latest sign that senior figures shared concerns about him, a permanent secretary who worked under Raab is believed to have given evidence to Tolley as a witness. This is understood to be Lord McDonald of Salford, the former permanent secretary at the Foreign Office. Sunak's pledge of integrity, page 8

Parents in limbo over classroom walkouts

Union tells teachers to maintain strike secrecy

Emma Yeomans

Schools are struggling to plan for tomorrow's strike after unions told members to keep their heads teachers in the dark about whether or not they would take part.

The government has urged the largest teaching union, the National Education Union (NEU), to 'keep head teachers informed of their intentions' before the walkout, but advice on the union's website stresses that members do not have to tell their employer whether they intend to strike.

More than 20,000 schools are expected to be affected, disrupting the learning of millions of pupils.

Up to half of all schools in England and Wales could close to some or all pupils, polling by the education app TeacherTapp suggests, equalling 10,000 schools. In a survey of more than 8,000 teachers, 14 per cent said their schools would not open. A further 53 per cent of secondary school teachers and 35 per cent of primary teachers said their school would be closed to some pupils. Nine per cent of teachers did not know whether their school would be open.

This suggests that more than 3,000 schools will close entirely tomorrow in England and Wales, and at least 1,900 secondary schools and 6,300 primary schools will close partially. London has the highest proportion of shut schools, at 25 per cent, compared with fewer than 10 per cent in the Midlands. Most schools are trying to keep vul-

nerable children and pupils with exams approaching in class. But many head teachers are understood to be unsure how many teachers will actually be on strike, after the advice from the NEU. The NEU is notifying each school of how many members are on staff, but individual teachers are not obligated to tell their schools in advance whether they will choose to join the strike.

Additionally, thousands of teachers have been joining the NEU every day from other unions since the strike was announced on January 16. This means that some of the membership figures supplied to schools may not be up to date. Advice to members on the union's website says: 'Individual NEU members do not have to tell their employer whether they personally intend to take part in strike action. If your head teacher or principal asks you to tell them or sign a form, you DO NOT have to do so. The law does not require you to do so, no matter what you are told.'

One head teacher said on Twitter: 'Most of my teachers seem to be exercising their right not to tell me. It's absolutely their right, but it's so stressful.'

The advice not to reveal whether they will strike or not was made due to fears that teachers would be pressured into not striking, especially in schools where they are in the minority as NEU members, The Times understands.

Yesterday the prime minister's spokesman urged unions to keep heads informed to help keep as many children



Following suit The Princess of Wales was joined by her husband at the launch in London of a campaign to highlight the importance of early childhood. Page 9

Roses are red,
violets are blue,
Valentine's bot
is here for you

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

The AI bot ChatGPT already looks ready to revolutionise the education system. Next it could help us to fall in love.

Tongue-tied lotharios who fear their way with words, or lack thereof, could cost them come Valentine's Day have been told that help is at hand.

Moonpig, the online card retailer, is exploring integrating ChatGPT into its systems. Customers will be able to ask the software to generate a personalised message or poem without having to scratch their heads for the right words. ChatGPT, created by OpenAI, the Microsoft-backed business, is so sophisticated and easy to use that teachers are concerned it will allow pupils to cheat by writing their essays. Elon Musk, the tech billionaire and OpenAI founder, said it meant 'good-bye homework'.

The technology has already managed to pass an MBA exam and win job offers, not to mention written film scripts and business plans.

Moonpig is also interested in Dall-E, another OpenAI project, which creates realistic images from a text description, as a way to allow customers to change the picture on the front of greetings cards. Video messages can already be embedded into its cards using a QR code that customers can scan with their phone camera to bring to life.

Moonpig was founded more than 20 years ago by Nick Jenkins, a former commodity trader who named his company after his loathed school nickname, and the company floated on the London Stock Exchange last February.

Nicky Rathbun, who took over as chief executive in 2018, has focused on

Continued on Page 2



March

In March, Teacher Tapp was mentioned in a range of media from nationals to niche!

Data on strikes was included in the [Evening Standard](#) (again) and [The AI Educator](#) (Dan Fitzpatrick) was the one of the first people to write about how teachers are using ChatGPT, citing Teacher Tapp data. An article in [Schools Week](#) also highlighted how surveys like Teacher Tapp can positively contribute to teacher wellbeing - you heard it here first ■■

Survey apps - previously seen as adding to teacher workloads, have become a [crucial part in making sure teachers are heard](#). Platforms such as Teacher Tapp, allow educators to respond each day to issues that are shaping the future of teaching. From questions about learning programs, teacher wellbeing, wages, education policy and a whole host of other insights, teachers can share their opinions

directly, providing decision makers with a clear picture of what's happening in U.K schools.

[Compass Education](#), for [SchoolsWeek](#)

April

A huge milestone was achieved in April: for the first time ever Teacher Tapp had 10,000 responses in one day!!!



There was also lots of media coverage as strikes rumbled on, with Teacher Tapp CEO Laura McInerney sharing findings with the BBC, LBC, and Vanessa, amongst others.

May

In May Teacher Tapp data was used in a BBC Radio 4 documentary. [File on 4](#) investigated claims that children are being taught graphic and age-inappropriate material as part of their Relationship and Sex Education.












The screenshot shows the BBC Radio 4 'File on 4' podcast player. The main visual is a black and white maze with the text 'FILE ON 4' in red in the center. The BBC logo is at the top. A 'Listen now' button with a speaker icon is on the left. Below the maze, the title 'Sex education: Too much too young?' is displayed, followed by a description: 'File on 4 investigates claims that children are being taught graphic and age-inappropriate material as part of their Relationship and Sex Education.' To the right of the description, it says 'Available now' and '37 minutes'. There are 'Show more' and 'Download' buttons. On the right side, there's a 'Last on' section showing 'Sun 14 May 2023 17:00 BBC RADIO 4'. Below that is a 'More episodes' section with 'PREVIOUS Oiling Putin's War?' and 'NEXT Affirmative Action on Trial', each with a speaker icon. At the bottom right, there's a link 'See all episodes from File on 4'.

Also in May, Education Secretary Gillian Keegan pointed out in a letter to unions that more Teacher Tappers said they'd vote for her proposed pay deal if it was fully funded. It was good to see her taking account of your views. The only issue was that she seems to believe the deal was fully funded, whereas the unions (and many of you) felt differently.

June

In June, we published our latest research into teacher recruitment. In partnership with [SchoolDash](#) and [The Gatsby Foundation](#). The report was covered by both [Schools Week](#) and [TES](#) (£).

2023 Teacher Recruitment and Retention

<p>Secondary job advertisements are up by 12%</p> 	<p>Half of primary schools have at least ONE class taught by a supply or non-qualified teacher</p> 	<p>Pupils in poorest areas MUCH more likely to have disrupted teaching during their GCSEs</p> 
<p>59% teachers expect to still teach in 3 years' time</p> <p>A drop from 72% in 2019</p> 	<p>Teachertapp</p>  <p>schoolDash UNDERSTAND.EDUCATION</p>	<p>Fewer senior leaders now aspire to become headteachers</p> <p>43%, down from 56% pre-pandemic</p> 
<p>On flexible working: 4-in-10 teachers would like to have their planning, preparation & assessment time at home</p> 	<p>Half of secondary leaders say their school couldn't interview any candidate for a position due to a weak field</p> 	<p>Most senior leaders said it's hard to manage flexible working requests</p> <p>70% primary; 67% secondary</p> 

July

Throughout July, the Teacher Tapp team were out and about at our biggest ever year of conferences.

Did you see us on the road?



August

It may have been the summer holidays, but YOU kept Tapping, and WE kept telling everyone what you were saying!

Laura McInerney, was interviewed on LBC (again) about the teacher pay settlement and on [BBC Radio 4's Today Programme](https://www.bbc.com/radio4/programmes/today-programme) about new Teacher Tapp school uniform findings .

Your **Teachertapp** responses making a difference!

You can hear Laura talking about the latest findings on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme from Tuesday morning.



Also in August, The Lionesses competed in the World Cup final. They may not have won **!!** but 46% of primary teachers told us they'd seen girls playing football in the playground; a 12 percentage point increase on the previous year. The increase was included in various news stories, such as this one in the [iNews](#). And the DfE even tweeted about it!



Department for Education ✓
@educationgovuk



.@TeacherTapp's poll shows the impact of the @Lionesses in schools.

Our School Sport & Activity Action Plan will ensure these newly inspired girls have access to the same great opportunities as boys.

Come on England, keep it coming home! 🙌🇬🇧🦁

#FIFAWWC 🏆

tes Tes @tes · Aug 3

There has been a big rise in primary girls taking part in playground matches and schools with girls and mixed football teams, according to a new @TeacherTapp poll
tes.com/magazine/news/...

8:08 AM · Aug 7, 2023 · **12.9K** Views

1 Retweet 1 Quote 6 Likes

September

In September, we introduced the ability to save the Teacher Tapp Daily Reads.

So far, over 20,000 articles have been saved.

You can now **save** your favourite daily reads!

Save articles you like and find them under your Activity screen at any time!

Teacher
tapp



Also in September, we were delighted to announce that Teacher Tapp was a winner in the 2023 [Learning Tools Competition](#)! The competition is one of the largest edtech competitions in the world and is highly competitive: over 1,000 teams from around the world entered, and Teacher Tapp is 1 of only 10 companies to receive the top award. Here's Laura explaining more:

https://www.tiktok.com/@teachertapp/video/7276829453395741984?_r=1&t=8feRs9OJUiv

October

In October, the government announced it was going going to “ban” phones in schools. Which is to say, the government planed to issue non-statutory guidance to recommend heads ban

phones.

Teacher Tapp CEO Laura McNerney took to the airwaves to share the facts. In a whirlwind media tour, she was on The Today Programme, LBC, Talk TV, AND Times Radio all in one day!

The data was also featured in [Schools Week](#), [TES](#)(£), and was discussed by education influencer [Mr P ICT](#).

https://www.tiktok.com/@ict_mrp/video/7285448382519217440?_r=1&_t=8gE70l1bOLZ

November

In November, Teacher Tapp Co-Founder Becky Allen gave evidence to the [Education Select Committee](#) on the critical issue of teacher retention. Her testimony incorporated the perspectives of YOU... our 10,000 Teacher Tappers!

The [weekly blog](#) highlighted the data that Becky shared with Members of Parliament, using your valuable data points, including new results that show how few school leaders are aware of the DfE workload reduction initiatives. Here she is making one of the key points about how tricky it is to measure teacher workload:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@teachertapp/video/7303927922103045408>

December

You're still making an impact by answering Teacher Tapp questions in December!

We couldn't do what we do without you. Thank you for Tapping through 2023, and keep your eyes peeled for big Teacher Tapp developments in 2024 🖐🖐

And finally...

If you're looking for the list of daily reads for the week, you can find them [here](#)