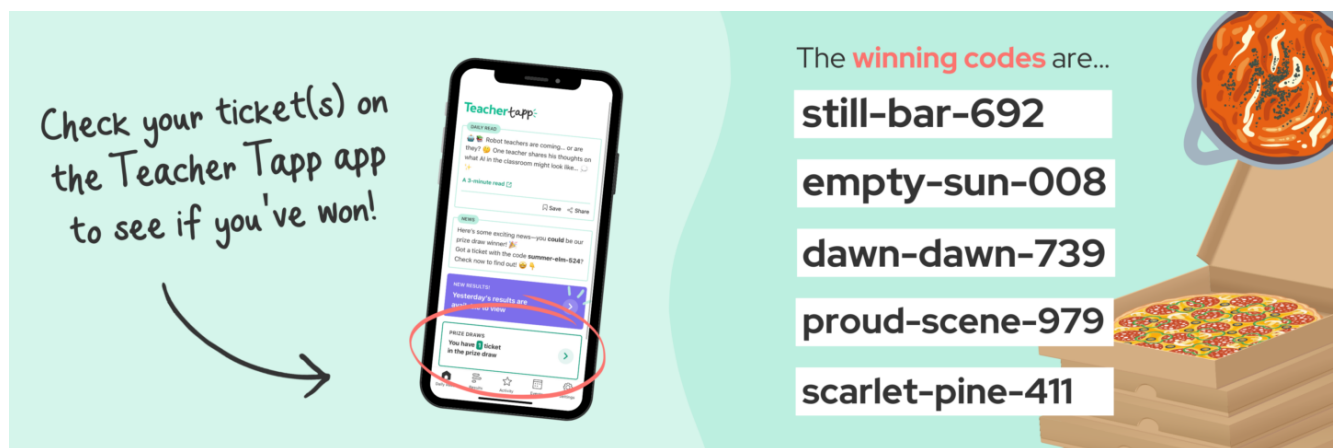


Mobiles, Teaching Assistants and school pets

Hey Tappsters!

The November prize draw, sponsored by HUE HD Pro Visualiser, has closed and it is time to check your app and see if you are one of the FIVE winners! If one of the codes shown below matches with one in your Teacher Tapp app, you've won! To check, open the app, go to 'Prize Draws' on the home screen, and find your code.

The winning tickets to look for are...



Check your ticket(s) on the Teacher Tapp app to see if you've won!

The **winning codes** are...

- still-bar-692
- empty-sun-008
- dawn-dawn-739
- proud-scene-979
- scarlet-pine-411

Now, onto results...

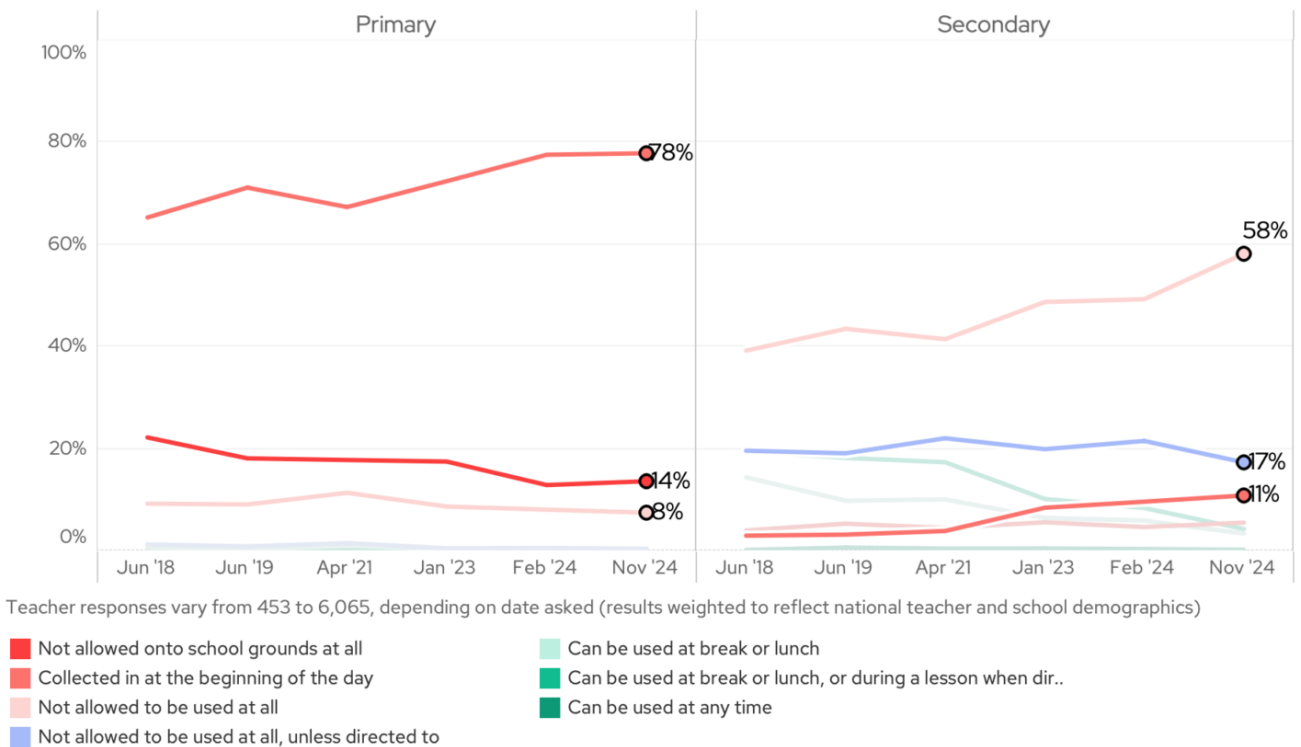
Mobile phones

With Australia in the news at the moment with their [move to ban social media for teens](#), attention has turned to our own teenagers: how many schools have banned mobile phones? And are those bans effective? Back in February the Department for Education launched a "[crackdown on mobile phones](#)", but has anything changed?

The number of secondary teachers who say mobiles are allowed on site BUT cannot be taken out while in school has gone UP. Last academic year 48% of secondary teachers said their school implemented this rule – today it is 58%.

Schools with really strict rules around mobile phone use haven't increased: schools with no phones on site AT ALL have remained at similar levels to last year - 14% of primary teachers said their school implements this rule, and 5% of secondary teachers. There has also been very little change in the number of schools collecting phones at the start of the day (11% in secondary, up from 9% last year and 78% in primary, same as last year).

Which of the following most closely matches your school's policy on mobile phones for students?



But with phone rules tightening up, has this successfully stamped out mobiles in the classroom? Not quite.

One in ten secondary lessons (10%) were disrupted by a pupil using a mobile phone last week - this is the same as when we asked last month, and the same as when we asked in September 2023.

And it's not just lessons - in the space of a week, 60% of teachers saw a phone being used at a time it was banned.

Where phones aren't completely banned, do teachers want them to be?

Would teachers at schools where mobile phones are allowed to be on the pupils' person (as opposed to collected in or banned from the premises) prefer it if they were banned altogether? 76% agreed that they would rather have a policy banning mobiles, and of those 48% strongly agreed.

And this makes sense - mobile phones disrupted learning in a quarter of lessons (25%) in schools where mobiles are allowed to be used at break and lunch and only in lessons when

directed to by a teacher. In schools where phones are collected in at the start of the school day, this number was just 1%.

Should England follow Australia's lead?

On the specific topic of social media use, 87% of teachers disagree that the benefits of social media for under 18s outweigh the downsides, and this is an increase compared to when we asked last year (78%). Not only that, but 97% would want to see the Government introduce tighter regulations for teenagers and social media use.

Want to learn more about behaviour data? We have our behaviour report with School Surveys available for you to download and read now! Check it out [here](#).

Learning Support Assistants

Having another adult in the room can provide a valuable pair of eyes when it comes for spotting when pupils are in need of extra support. But just how valuable do teachers think they are?

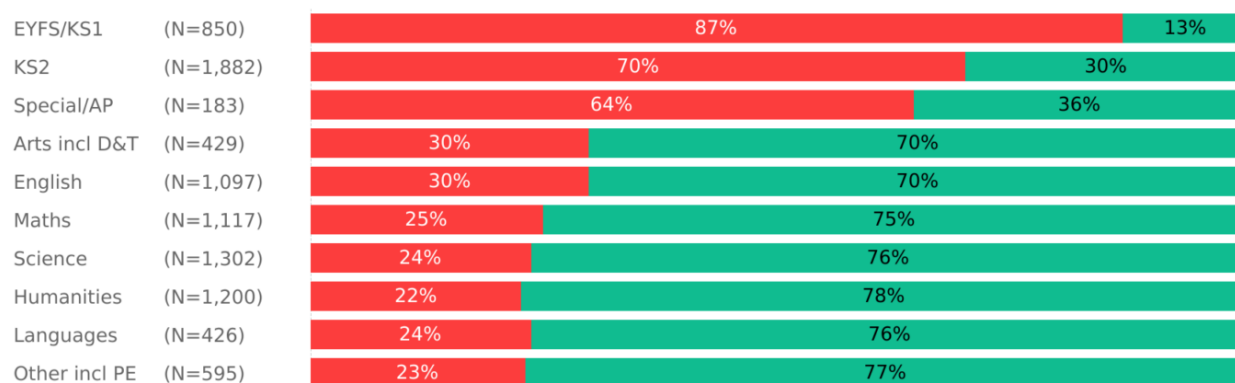
To almost three-quarters of primary school teachers, they're worth foregoing a 20% pay rise!

However, over in secondary, a teaching assistant is only more attractive than a chunky pay increase to around a quarter of teachers (26%).

But do all teachers feel the same? Absolutely not! EYFS and KS1 teachers are those most keen to have a full-time teaching assistant (87%), followed by KS2 teachers (70%), and then Special/AP teachers (64%).

After that, English and arts, including design and technology are next (30%), followed by maths (25%) and science (24%).

Would you rather have...?



Question answered by 9,081 teachers on 29/11/2024 (results weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics)

■ A full-time teaching assistant in all your lessons/classes

■ A 20% pay rise with no teaching assistant

One reason why EYFS and KS1 teachers might be more in need of a teaching assistant could be the more hands-on teaching that is required.

Last week, we found out...

61% of reception teachers had a child in their class who had a toileting accident.

64% of EYFS/KS1 pupils didn't follow instructions (compared to 44% in secondary).

72% of EYFS/KS1 pupils were calling out in their last lesson (compared to 46% in secondary).

Do you have a question about teaching assistants you would like to put to the panel? Get in touch and send your suggestions to england@teachertapp.co.uk OR you can send your ideas straight to us via the app! Just go to 'contact us' and drop us a message!

School pets

Now, from one type of classroom assistant to another...school pets!

Although just over three-quarters of schools DO NOT have any pets - among those that do, which of our little furry or feathered or scaley friends are the most popular?

Of the 25% of schools who DO have pets - here is...

The Teacher Tapp School Pet Top Five Chart

5 ■ ■ ■ Small indoor rodents like hamsters (10%).

4 ■ ■ ■ Reptiles and amphibians (14%).

3 ■ ■ ■ Aquatic animals like goldfish (16%).

2■■ ■■ Rabbits and guinea pigs and small outdoor pets (17%).

1■■ ■■■■■■ Dogs and cats are the number one choice for school pets! (60%)

School pets - are they your idea of school heaven, or hell? Show us your best pet-photos, and tell us your pet-related misdemeanours on our MANY Teacher Tapp socials - you can find us on BlueSky, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram - search @TeacherTapp!

■■ Top events

We have a NEW top event this week: [Scholars Programme Information Webinar](#) from the Brilliant Club.

Have you used our events feature and enjoyed the CPD you received? Let us know how it went by emailing england@teachertapp.co.uk. Remember, the app offers a wide range of in-person and online events! Visit the Events page to find something for everyone.

Ups and Downs

On the rise ■■

Classes over 30 pupils – Since October last year, the number of teachers with a class of more than 30 has increased to 35% from 32%.

Heading down ■■

Teachers who feel families are supportive of school – Sad news! Fewer teachers feel that the families of the children they teach are supportive of the school (59% DOWN from 63%).

Daily Reads

This week our most-read blog was [a call to BAN Elf on the Shelf in classrooms](#).

Have you seen a great blog you think would make a great daily read? Let us know by emailing england@teachertapp.co.uk and we will check it out!