



### This week's stories from the media

- 12 year-olds signing up to adult dating apps
- Latin 4th most taught language in English primary schools
- School refusal increasing
- Schoolkids uploading vicious footage for likes
- US kids to learn mindful breathing
- Don't quit swimming lessons over winter

#### Latin 4th Most Taught Language

For the first time, Latin is one of the top four languages taught to children in England from the age of 7.

The numbers taking French and German continue to decline.

French continues to be the most taught language.

Some schools are using apps such as Duolingo, while others receive resources from Classics For All, a charity.

"Latin has a lot of benefits - it's the foundation of the romance languages and teachers feel it helps with pupils' grammar, vocabulary and spelling in English."

Latin is also the most popular language taught in the first three years of independent secondary school - after French, Spanish and German.

For state schools it was Mandarin.

The Government wants 90% of students taking a foreign language GCSE in 2025.

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#### 12 Year-Olds Signing Up To Adult Dating Apps

**Kids as young as 12 are signing up on adult dating apps, easily able to bypass age restrictions, new Adelaide research shows.**

Kids as young as 12 are using apps such as Tinder, Match.com, OkCupid, Bumble and Grindr, local criminology experts warn.

There are fears youngsters are not only being exposed to undesirable adult content but are also putting themselves at risk of dangerous contacts or liaisons.

Adelaide research from those who accessed the sites while underage – as well as OnlyFans and Sugar Daddy apps – reveals bypassing the age restrictions remains relatively easy.

It finds most children are using the sites without their parents knowing, with many thinking "it's normal" to be on dating apps.

Tahlia Hart, a lawyer and researcher with Flinders Uni's Centre for Crime Policy and Research, is preparing to present findings at the Global Dating Insights conference.

It will include delegates from major dating apps as well as social media giants such as Facebook and TikTok.

"Worryingly, adolescents are exposed to a multiple of harms by going on dating sites; they may experience inappropriate online abuse and even encounter online groomers or become victims of statutory rape with adult users."

A 2022 study by the Australian Institute of Criminology found 12.4% of adult dating app users had received a request from another user to facilitate sexual exploitation of a child accessible to them.

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### School Refusal Increasing

**A Senate inquiry into school refusal has until August to dig up statistical links between rising rates of truancy and lower academic outcomes.**

Senators are investigating a phenomenon that has worsened since the Covid pandemic.

“The pandemic has disrupted children’s learning, weakened their connection to schools, placed severe pressure on their mental health and wellbeing, and significantly increased disengagement.”

Last year, attendance levels dropped to the lowest level on record after the number of missed school days doubled compared with the start of the pandemic.

“Children may refuse to eat, or vomit, sit in the car shaking or experience panic attacks at the thought of attending school.”

The Senate inquiry has been told schools need to offer more flexible timetables, “Education settings must meet the needs of the students. We must stop judging fish by their ability to climb trees”.

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### Schoolkids Uploading Vicious Footage For Likes

**Hundreds of accounts on Instagram encourage schoolchildren to upload footage of fights in the schoolyard while telling followers not to report the activity.**

Vicious schoolyard bashings are being recorded and posted to Instagram profiles dedicated to inciting a growing school fight club craze across Australia.

Disturbing footage, obtained as part of The Daily Telegraph’s Class War investigation, uncovered hundreds of Instagram profiles showing children being assaulted in classrooms, school playgrounds, hallways and bathrooms, while others film the encounters for fans on social media.

Meta has come under fire for being too slow in proactively identifying harmful content and remove it.

Despite clear violations of Instagram’s community guidelines, which prohibit graphic violence, abuse and bullying, many of the profiles remained public on Instagram for years.

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### US Kids To Learn Mindful Breathing

**New York’s mayor has launched a mindful breathing plan as the city is engulfed by more smoke from wildfires in Canada.**

Mindful breathing in schools will begin in September.

At least one person in each school will be trained in the practice.

The mayor has credited meditation and a plant-based diet for his own transformation from an overweight police officer to the Zen mayor of America’s largest city.

Critics say it is not a substitute for counselling and support services to deal with a youth mental health crisis as cities emerge from the pandemic.

[Full Story](#)

### Schools Tree Day - July 28

**Tree Day is a great way to inspire students to learn about the local environment.**



### Don't Quit Swimming Over Winter

**At this time of year, it’s no wonder many parents pause their child’s swimming lessons.**

However, a pause can easily turn into stopping lessons altogether.

Or, it can make restarting lessons in summer tricky, as children try to remember skills they haven’t practised in months.

Almost a third of all drowning deaths of children under five occur in autumn and winter.

However, an estimated 40% of children leave primary school without being able to swim the length of an Olympic swimming pool.

Participation in swimming lessons declines significantly after age seven.

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