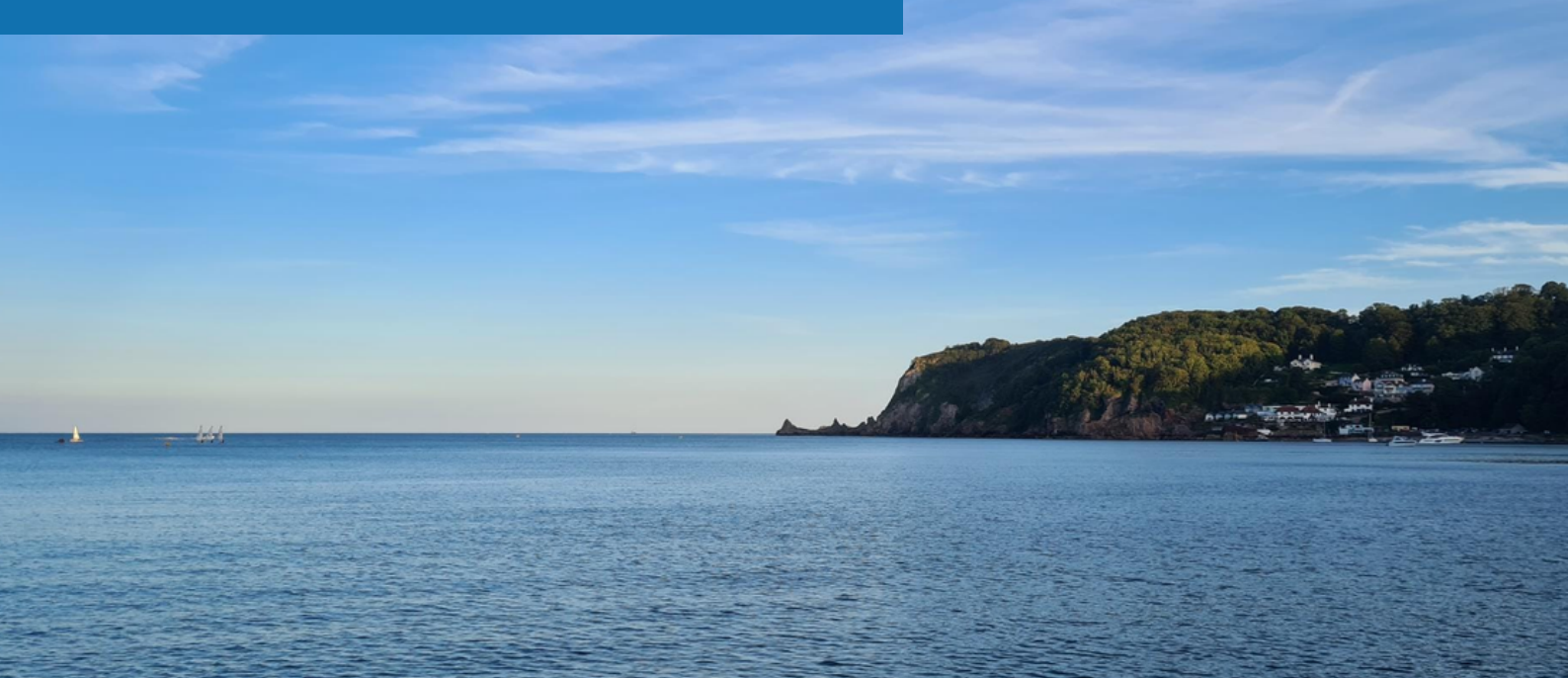


W E E K L Y

NEWSLETTER

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



AUTUMN TERM 1 – WEEK 1

Welcome back!

We are so excited to welcome all our learners, including those who are joining us for the first time, for the Autumn term at Magdalen Court. Having already published a Summer Updates newsletter this week, this will just be a mini newsletter for notices ahead of Week 2.

Adapting to change

A big well done to all our learners for coping well with returning to school this week, especially with lots of changes. The learners have managed these changes and it's been lovely to see them settling into their new classes and cracking on with their lessons!

Focus for the Year

This year we will be focusing on developing the curriculum and embedding reading and careers work. We hope you will agree that we've made a positive start on developing communication and we will be continuing to work on this, responding to Parent/Carer feedback. We will also be holding coffee mornings, as an opportunity to hear views and run workshops.

New Parent/Carer Guide

It's been lovely to see some new faces at school this week and we hope that our new learners are adjusting well. To help with the transition, we are in the final stages of putting together a New Parent/Carer Guide to MCS. This will be emailed out next week, but if you would prefer a printed copy then please let Mel in the office know.

Hot Weather

While we are still expecting (and enjoying!) the lovely weather, please ensure that your learner is sent to school with a reusable water bottle and a hat (where appropriate) to use at breaktimes.


Staff training

Earlier this week, the staff enjoyed some brilliant training from our therapies team - Alice, Abbie and Lucy. The training included conversations around special interests and gross, fine and independent motor skills. All classes will soon have access to their own carousels of motor skill resources. We are looking forward to sharing some more of what we covered in future newsletters!


Next Week

Please find the schedule for Week 2, our first full week this school year! This schedule is also available on the website and on the school social media.

AUTUMN 1 - WEEK 2



MONDAY Outdoor Ed Oak & Larch (Oddicombe Beach) Food Hazel (Breakfast burritos)	TUESDAY Outdoor Ed Holly & Elm (Oddicombe Beach) Food Year 11/Post 16 (Granola Cherry & mango frozen yogurt) Larch (Dippy eggs with toast soldiers)	WEDNESDAY Outdoor Ed Beech (Oddicombe Beach) Food: Elm (Oat crumbed Baked fruit) Ash (Breakfast burritos) Oak (Dippy eggs with toast soldiers)
THURSDAY Outdoor Ed Ash & Hazel (Oddicombe Beach) Food Holly (Oat crumbed Baked fruit) Post 16 (Scrambled Eggs with smoked salmon)	FRIDAY Outdoor Ed Year 11 & Post 16 (Oddicombe Beach) Food Beech (French toast & Fruit compote)	

**NOTE**
Please remember dry clothes for Outdoor Ed!

Safeguarding

This week, our safeguarding focus for what Parents/Carers need to know is all about sharing photos online. This is a really important topic to discuss with your learner at home, as so many of learners are active users of apps such as snapchat.

If this is something you would like support with then please get in touch with Jane, our Safeguarding Officer.

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. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about — SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to always meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you really want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as those images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting: it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for FosterWiki.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday