

W E E K L Y

NEWSLETTER

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



SPRING TERM 2 – WEEK 4

Outdoor Education

This week, learners have been practicing their shelter building and knot tying, as the weather was too bad for cooking! Next week, hopefully learners will be continuing to build on their cooking skills! Please ensure all learners have spare, waterproof clothing.

End of term arrangements

Term will end on Friday 24th at 1pm. We are really excited to be offering learners a brunch on their last day of term, featuring sausage baps, hash browns, fresh fruits and some sweet Easter treats! There will be Vegetarian, Gluten Free and Dairy Free options available. If learners would prefer not to participate, they may bring their own food.

Match report

On Friday 10th March, Magdalen Court School were very excited to undertake their first football fixture against Orchard Manor School. The team played outstanding together, keeping positive through each quarter, even when times got tough losing 6-4. As a team they pulled it back, making some lovely passes to each other. Junior and Callan were able to work together to move the ball up the pitch to find the goal. There was some incredible defence from the team with some impressive saves from Freddie in goal. Hard work paid off by the end as the final score ended at 10-10. We were immensely proud of the team and impressed with the team work that they all showed supporting each other on and off the pitch.

Thank you to all the players who gave their one hundred percent effort, you are a credit to the school.

Billy

Joshua

Callen

Junior

Cameron

Mae

Freddie

Ozzy

Jack

Red Nose Day

A big thank you to everyone who helped make Red Nose Day such a brilliant event on Thursday! It was fantastic to see so many of our learners wearing red, and the cake sale raised £142.76! Well done to everyone who baked and bought in cakes from home and another well done to Freddie in Oak, who held his own bake sale and made £28.70! This makes our grand total £171.46!

Plymouth Aquarium

Our End of Term trip took place today, with an exciting trip to Plymouth Aquarium! We were especially excited to see some learners really push themselves to go on the coach and join the school community on this day out, when that might be really outside of their comfort zone.

The day started with a tour around all the different zones, before lunch in the slightly breezy Secret Garden! The learners then enjoyed a Virtual Reality session and some time to look at fossils and artefacts.

A big thank you to all the staff and well done to the learners for some fantastic behaviour! More photos will follow in our End of Term newsletter next week!



Highlights from Food Tech!

In food tech this week, Beech class baked apple & courgette breakfast muffins. Learners in Larch made spinach and potato curry with flatbreads, served up with yogurt and mango chutney for dunking. Post 16 practiced the creaming method with the electric whisks to make cupcakes for Thursday's bake sale. Ash class had a go at making butter cream icing and piping work to ice the cupcakes. Holly & Elm made some beautiful American style blueberry pancakes - learners developed mixing a batter, frying skills and timing. These mini puffed up stackable pancakes work great served for breakfast with natural yogurt, fresh fruit and honey, and you can find the recipe below! Next week our recipes will be focusing on some classic Easter bakes, hot cross buns and Simnel cake.

American blueberry pancakes

Prep: 15 mins Cook: 20 mins Easy Makes 10 pancakes

Ingredients:

200g self-raising flour

1 tsp baking powder

1 egg

300ml milk

A knob of butter

150g pack blueberries

Sunflower oil or a little butter for cooking

Golden or Maple syrup

Method

Step 1 Mix together 200g self-raising flour, 1 tsp baking powder and a pinch of salt in a large bowl.

Step 2 Beat 1 egg with 300ml milk, make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients and whisk in the milk to make a thick smooth batter.

Step 3 Beat in a knob of melted butter, and gently stir in half of the 150g pack of blueberries.

Step 4 Heat a teaspoon of sunflower oil or small knob of butter in a large non-stick frying pan.

Step 5 Drop a large tablespoonful of the batter per pancake into the pan to make pancakes about 7.5cm across. Make three or four pancakes at a time.

Step 6 Cook for about 3 minutes over a medium heat until small bubbles appear on the surface of each pancake, then turn and cook another 2-3 minutes until golden.

Step 7 Cover with kitchen paper to keep warm while you use up the rest of the batter.

Step 8 Serve with golden or maple syrup and the rest of the blueberries

Parent's Evening - Tuesday 18th April

Parent's Evening will take place in the first week after the Easter Holidays on Tuesday 18th. This will be a great opportunity to discuss how learners are progressing so far this year. Class teachers will be contacting Parents & Carers next week to book in appointment slots.

Train trip!

This week, two of our learners visited the South Devon Railway station. Izzy and Alastair, along with Olivia and Graham, had a wonderful visit where they had a bespoke tour by Will, the Railway Station Manager. Will opened up the museum specifically for the learners, who were interested to hear that the museum is run totally by volunteer staff. Izzy and Alastair enjoyed looking at the miniature railway and visiting the steam trains!



Safeguarding

This week, our safeguarding focus is Discord - a free app that allows users to communicate via text, video or voice chat. We are aware that a number of learners are using Discord and similar apps, and may be speaking to strangers. We hope the helpful guide will allow you to speak to your learners and help them understand the best ways to keep safe online!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING

13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content; a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at gmw3.com: a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



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