



AUTUMN 1 – WEEK 5

This week has seen some changes at MCS

Birch & Ash class have joined to create a new Elm class, with a new space to share and teacher Alex F at the helm ably assisted by TA Elanor. Learners have coped well with the transition and are settling in nicely, well done everyone.

Dates for the diary

Parents' evening 8th October

Coffee morning - Olive class - 10th October

Half term 21st October - 1st November

Headteacher's Award



This week the Headteacher's Award goes to two people!

April from Alley House for showing great commitment to her work, even scribing for others

&

Jack L for being a great role model for others, demonstrating exemplary behaviour

THERAPY FOCUS

Following the success of our first few Therapy coffee mornings, the team have responded to parents' requests to provide further information to help support children in this area by creating this new area of our newsletter, in which we'll provide some exercises that we use in school and you can also do at home to aid your child's development.

Our first focus is the Moro reflex. This is often called the 'startle' reflex, which is usually retained until about 6-12 months old, but can be retained much longer in some individuals. The following exercises can help your child to integrate this reflex, which in turn will aid concentration and self-regulation.

Therapy Ball Supine Hug | Both arms and legs



Therapy Ball Supine Hug | Alternate arms and legs



Supine Over Therapy Ball | Add a throwing game



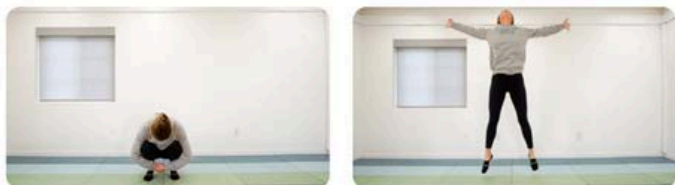
Therapy Ball Rainbow Pass



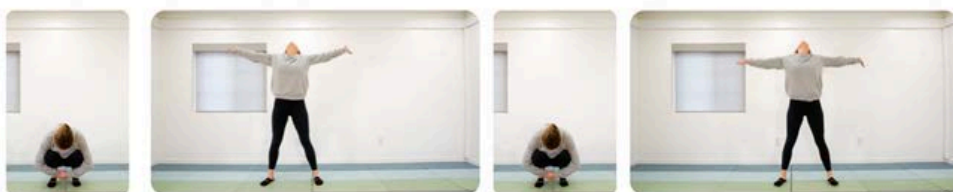
Rocking Egg / Peanut Rocking



Star Jumps



(modify with step out - no jump)



Over-Unders



Supine Therapy Ball Kicking



Roll Across Floor | Flexed position; or down hill, across crash pad or mat





EXPLODING BUBOES!

In History, Beech Class have been learning about the Black Death. This week we have explored the symptoms and carried out a practical task by making 'Exploding Buboos'! We injected jam doughnuts with some custard (representing the blood and pus), colouring the top black with food colouring (to represent the scab) and squeezed them to make them 'pop'. Lots of smiles and laughter ensued... which was just the injection of fun we all needed to tackle this grizzly topic!



WILLOW DRAWING CHALLENGE

This term we've been challenging learners using Willow room to show us their drawing skills. The winner of September's award for best drawing goes to Otto for this amazing dragon!

Lime & Holly **UPDATE**



Pupils in Lime and Holly have begun their bespoke Personal Development programme. Currently we have 3 different projects running. Group 1 are preparing a Design and Technology workshop at Magdalen Court which involves purchasing tools and planning small building projects.

Group 2 are developing their design and printing skills, using our printing press to design and make personalised t-shirts and tote bags using coloured vinyl sheets.

Group 3 have been learning about upcycling and renovation projects. Pupils have been looking for inspiration from our local community to design and update furnishings, which have been kindly donated by one of our parent's companies.

One of our brilliant KS5 pupils is part way through his 6 weeks work experience opportunity at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum. He has been learning about many of the historical pieces within RAMMs collection and all the different roles and professions within the museum. He states "I am learning about the different jobs within the museum and it is really improving my independence skills, helping me to prepare for college".

Food Tech

We've had another successful week in Food Tech with learners building upon skills and theory based learning. Learners in Larch class made some lovely savoury breakfast bars with sundried tomato, seeds and parmesan cheese. Aspen class have enjoyed making their own strawberry and banana smoothies, developing confidence with the stick blender. It was great to see learners personalizing ingredients and taste testing each other's' smoothies. Learners in Juniper and Oak class have made fantastic progress with making personalized breakfast muffins, weighing and measuring ingredients with increasing independence. Birch and Beech made red Leicester cheese and ham toasties with a high level of independence and awareness of safety using the hobs. Learners in Chestnut and Olive prepared bacon and egg rolls, managing the grills safely, and also completed some notation on their previous work on the 'Eatwell Plate'. Year 10 learners in Hazel and Maple did brilliantly preparing kedgeree, this recipe really tested learners' organisation skills with so many components, they did really well. Holly class made a wonderful Lancashire Hotpot, developing skills browning meat for the filling and assembling the layers of potato sliced into rounds. Lime class made some wonderful soda bread alongside a leek and potato soup.

Next week, Larch class will make broccoli and cheddar breakfast biscuits. Aspen will make cereal bars. Juniper and Oak will prepare some harvest fruit breakfast muffins. Birch and Beech will be making one cup pancakes. Learners studying the Level 1 curriculum will prepare fruit salad and a homemade granola. Chestnut class will prepare savoury breakfast muffins. Olive class will make French toast with blueberries. Hazel and Maple class will make veggie sweetcorn fritters. Holly class will prepare the soda bread with leek and potato soup. Lime class will make spiced lentil and butternut squash soup.





Our Values
Stars of the Week

Respect
&
Resilience

Health
&
Happiness

Kindness
&
Independence

The value this term is **respect** and we've seen some great examples of this quality in school this week.

Aspen

Theo for respectfully working with others to construct a complicated train set

Larch

Poorni for showing respect for others

Chestnut

Otto for being mindful of others

Olive

Josh F for showing respect towards his work and others

Elm

Noah for persevering, staying in class all day

Juniper

Ruby-Mae for demonstrating calm and respectful behaviour towards classmates

Oak

Lucas for helping others

Lime

Josh W for being respectful and a positive role model to his peers

Hazel

Ella for always working safely and kindly, in a respectful manner

Maple

Kai for friendliness and respect towards adults and peers

Beech

Kellan for being so thoughtful and considerate of others

Holly

George for respecting the school code of conduct

Next week

AUTUMN 1 - WEEK 6



MONDAY

Outdoor Education
Aspen & Larch

Food Tech
Elm
Pancakes, fruit salad
Juniper
Fruity breakfast muffins
Chestnut
Savoury breakfast
muffins

TUESDAY

Outdoor Education
Beech, Oak & Juniper

Food Tech
Larch
Broccoli & cheddar
biscuits
Olive
French toast
Aspen
Cereal bars

WEDNESDAY

Outdoor Education
Elm & Chestnut

Food Tech
Oak
Fruity breakfast muffins
Holly
Potato & leek soup
Hazel
Veggie sweetcorn fritters

THURSDAY

Outdoor Education
Hazel & Maple

Food Tech
Lime
Spiced lentil & butternut
squash soup

FRIDAY

Outdoor Education
Lime, Holly & Olive

Food Tech
Beech
Pancakes
Maple
Veggie sweetcorn fritters

Safeguarding

Each week we focus on a different safeguarding topic. This week we're looking at gaming streamers and influencers. On the next page you'll find a guide with helpful information and tips for parents and carers.

If you would like any support with any of our safeguarding topics, please reach out to Jane.

What you need to know about... GAMING STREAMERS & INFLUENCERS



What are they?

'Gaming Streamers & Influencers'

Streamers are people who stream themselves gaming, drawing, making things etc. for people to watch on the internet. Usually this will be done live, and others are able to chat with them in real time while they do so. Influencers are social media stars who hold influence over the people that follow them, like a kind of trend-setter or taste-maker, who companies often pay to promote their products. A streamer could also be considered an influencer in their chosen area.

Know the Risks

Adult Content

Many streamers use platforms such as Twitch or YouTube to broadcast themselves. YouTube is for ages 13+ (YouTube Kids is for under 13s) and may contain a lot of other adult content. Streamers themselves may be unsuitable for younger audiences, with the kind of content they make, and with many opting to stream live, anything can – and does – happen.

Authenticity Risk

A lot of streamers will have some kind of sponsorship deal in place with a company trying to sell their products to an audience. When the audience is mostly younger viewers, they may not realise that streamers are getting paid to promote a product and may not necessarily have their best interest in mind.

Bullying and hate

While some streamers do employ moderators to try and combat hateful comments or bullying in their comments sections, they can still be very nasty. Hateful language is quite common, and people looking to groom children or engage in online bullying behaviour, could frequent live chats.

Subscriptions

Streamers also make money through subscriptions on websites like Twitch, where fans will donate them a small amount of assets or as often as they like. Called 'bits', they can be bought in bundles of varying prices, which can be gifted to streamers via 'cheers'. Children could buy these 'bits' in large amounts, without realising what they're doing, leaving a big bill behind.

Safety Tips

Discuss what's real online

Be sure to teach kids the difference between what's real and honest, or fake and untrustworthy online. Photoshopping fake images and videos and bragging about themselves online is unfortunately quite commonplace so it is difficult to tell what is real or false. People with large followings can be promoting unhealthy or unsustainable lifestyles to children to boost their own online influence.

Use filters

There are filters that can be put in place to block out a lot of adult content on streaming sites. Just make sure you have access to children's accounts so you can set the parameters and keep track of what they're seeing yourself. Usually, parental controls will be located in the settings portion of an account's menu.

Check age settings

Both YouTube and Twitch state that they are not suitable for children under 13 years old, but other sites might be different. YouTube Kids, for example, is for ages 13 and under, and offers much of the same kid-friendly content that YouTube does without the risk of running into something improper.

Affiliate links

Keep an eye out for affiliate links in social media posts and tags like #ad. UK influencers have to follow the CAP Code for advertising standards, but many don't. It can be hard to tell who is working through legitimate channels because it's almost impossible to regulate. Many streamers encourage fans to buy merchandise through online shops and stores.

JADAGAMING

LIVE



Action & Support

Name check streamers

If your child has begun showing an interest in a streamer or influencer, check their names on Google. Some popular streamers have been discovered flouting industry regulations and using their young audiences to enhance their personal wealth through scams whilst others may swear on streams or promote drinking, substance abuse or links to gambling sites they operate to their young audiences.

Talk to your child

Initiate an open dialogue with your child about the kind of content they're consuming online. Ask about their favourite streamers and whether they like their personalities or the games they play and the community they have. Also remind them about what they should and shouldn't be sharing about themselves online and that just because social media stars do it, it can also be damaging.

Block and report

If you suspect a streamer might be taking advantage of their audience, or worse grooming children in any way, and have irrefutable evidence, do not hesitate to block and report them. First, block your child from being able to view their content and alert other parents to your concerns. Go immediately to the police or local authorities with the evidence of what you've seen.

Our Expert Mark Foster



Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.