

W E E K L Y

NEWSLETTER

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



Our Learners
practicing their
First Aid skills on
Outdoor Education!



SPRING TERM 1 – WEEK 2

Outdoor Ed

Next week, the students will be travelling to woodlands near Haytor and learning vital first aid information such as the recovery position and, CPR. Please ensure that learners bring spare, waterproof clothing. The term overview for Outdoor Education is also attached to this email, showing the focus and location for each week this term.



Headteacher's Award

This week's Headteacher's Award is awarded to Oliver Martin. Oliver has had a fantastic week, producing some great English work and demonstrating leadership and bravery in volunteering to read his work to the class. Oliver's work can be read on page 3 of this week's newsletter.



Stars of the Week!



Oak - Billy
Larch - Jack P
Beech - Harrison
Hazel & Ash - Freddie

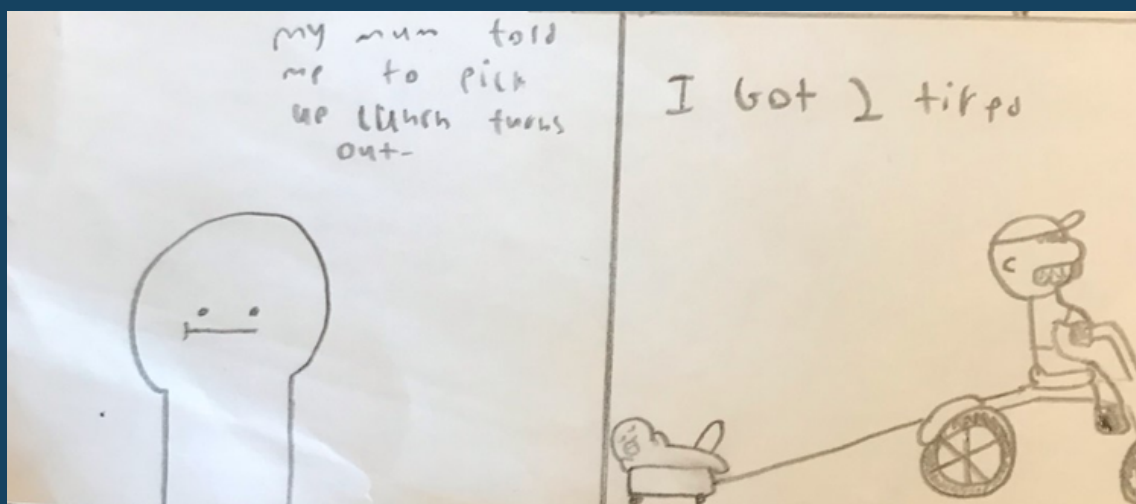
Food Tech

We've been making some incredible pizzas in food tech this week. Classes Beech, Elm, Holly and Larch have practiced the quick pizza, using self-raising flour, yogurt and baking powder for a zero resting period pizza base. KS4 classes and post 16 have excelled in making hand stretched pizza using a more traditional yeast activated dough which required some kneading. Chefs of the week are Ash class who managed to not only prepare pizza, they also practiced their knife skills whilst helping Harry prepare a large batch of vegetable and turkey soup. The staff team enjoyed eating this for lunch on Thursday. Next week, we will be developing skills around preparing different types of pasta sauces and some will even have a go at hand crafting some home made pasta shapes.



Creative Corner

This week, we are excited to feature an original cartoon by George from Elm class. George creates amusing sketches, and we look forward to seeing more of his work!



Beech Class

Beech class are currently working on 'Lost and Found' by Shaun Tan and working towards writing 'a portal story'. The key focus is to understand the importance of 'upgrading' our vocabulary choices for impact, and the whole class target is to 'vary our sentences for effect'. This week, the learners wrote introductions to stories - making sure to vary their sentences!

Izak Bennwood's story has been included below:

Shaft 13. It was a name that struck a shiver down the spine of every man, woman, and child on the island. 50 metres deeper than the next deepest shaft and twice as cramped, its mere location would have made it as terrifying as the waves crashing against the island shore; but another factor made it far, far worse. Every man who had stepped off the lift into the shaft died before he turned 30. Some of suicide, some of disease, one particularly unlucky fellow was said to have been crushed by a falling rock the moment he stepped off the platform. It was inevitable. And out of the 667 people on the island, all feared to go down there but 1.

Oliver Martin also created a fantastic introduction and read his work aloud to the class. For this, and for having a fantastic week, he was awarded the Headteacher's Award!

...Before I could, I had to make sure I could safely smuggle him into the shed which should give us some time. As the hours crept by, The Thing seemed to be getting quite ravenous. There was nothing to feed The Thing I thought, but then I remembered my ham sandwich and salad from my lunch that I was going to tuck in to when I came across The Thing. I rustled around in my tattered backpack and I pulled out my lunch from the beach earlier. The Thing devoured it before I could even look at the food in my hand. We both felt an unbreakable bond between and at that moment we both knew we were the best of friends. We set off on into the sunless sky on an adventure to find possibly more Things.

Safeguarding

Our focus this week is on Reddit - a website which many of our learners use on a regular basis. Reddit describes itself as a 'social news' site where users connect and share stories, opinions and support; debate issues; ask questions; and chat to people with similar interests. Please see the poster on the following page for more information, especially the risks associated with the website.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

REDDIT

R/FUNNY

R/TRENDING

AGE RATING

13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MINIMAL MODERATION

As sharing opinions on Reddit is easy (and anonymous), offensive or age-inappropriate content is frequently posted. Moderation by admins and bots does occur, but can't cover every community – so Reddit relies on users voluntarily moderating these spaces. Subreddits marked NSFW ('not safe for work') can contain anything from profanity to pornography, so are not suitable for under 18s.

HARASSMENT AND TROLLING

If someone on Reddit doesn't agree with your child's opinion, they may feel compelled to say so – in no uncertain terms. This could lead to a public bombardment of hurtful messages. Likewise, Reddit users are highly likely to encounter trolling (where someone posts a deliberately inflammatory comment to provoke a reaction) on the platform, which can be distressing.

FAKE NEWS

Absolutely anyone can post a story on Reddit, so sub-reddits are occasionally prone to bias, misinformation and opinions being repeated as if they are facts. Fake news articles often grab users' attention with catchy or controversial headlines, and Reddit is no exception. It's important that young people are able to identify fake news – and disregard it rather than sharing it.

Reddit describes itself as a social news website where users connect and share stories, opinions and support; debate issues; ask questions; and chat to people with similar interests. Discussion topics are organised into communities (known as subreddits) that are created, run and populated by users, who remain anonymous throughout. Free speech is encouraged, and users – or 'redditors' – can vote posts 'up' or 'down' so they get more (or less) attention. Reddit is free to join, although signing up to Reddit Premium unlocks an advert-free version of the platform.

GIFTING AND SPENDING

Users can gift awards to the authors of posts that they like (thereby encouraging their favourite redditors to keep contributing) by spending Reddit Coins. This virtual currency can be bought on demand (with real money) or received as part of the paid-for premium package. Users sending a gift can also leave an anonymous private message, a feature which has been abused by groomers.

'SUPPORTIVE' STRANGERS

By definition, Reddit users interact with strangers in public through their community – but also have the option to do so privately. Groomers could repeatedly up-vote a child's comments or respond encouragingly to their posts to win their trust. Once they've built a rapport, the predator then begins messaging the child in private to obtain personal details or try to lure them into meeting in person.

NEVER-ENDING NOTIFICATIONS

Reddit's default is for all notifications to be on. There are a total of 26 types of notification on the platform, ranging from chat messages and comments to updates and mentions of username. This would lead to a child's device being pinged almost constantly with alerts, frequently causing them to be distracted by incoming notifications rather than being present in the moment.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SORT THE SETTINGS

Reddit's user settings can help ensure that minors don't view adult material. Under the 'Feed Settings' tab, switch the Adult Content toggle to 'off', and enable Safe Browsing Mode (this blurs out any explicit images). Also in settings, you can turn off all unnecessary notifications, to prevent your child being distracted by every post or comment on Reddit, allowing them some tech-free time.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

It can often be difficult to tell if something online is real or fake – particularly for young people. It's important to encourage your child to double-check with reputable sources if what they've read is genuine. Remind them to consider what motives might be in the message – and to watch out for scams. Chatting about this regularly helps to develop critical thinking skills and good online habits.

RISE ABOVE IT

If a person says something critical or offensive to your child on Reddit, it's natural that they'll want to respond. Explain to them, however, that is exactly the reaction that trolls look for. Don't give them the satisfaction: instead, report the comment to Reddit Support for investigation. Blocking a user stops them from messaging or following your child on the platform.

AVOID PRIVATE MESSAGING

Through their Reddit profile, young people can control who's able to message them privately – with options including 'no-one' and 'accounts older than 30 days'. These controls help ensure potential groomers can't talk to your child in private, and that Reddit's admins and other users will be able to moderate and report anything they spot which causes them concern.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Sources: <https://www.reddit.com/policies/user-agreement-september-12-2021#EEA> | <https://www.reddit.com/policies/content-policy>



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