

W E E K L Y

NEWSLETTER



SPRING TERM 1 – WEEK 4

Half Term

This term will end on Friday (9th) at the normal time of **3:50pm**. Term will restart on Monday 19th February.

Lost Property

Please review our lost property page to see if any items belong to your learner. This week is your last opportunity to claim these belongings.

Half term plans

Over the half term, we are excited for a number of changes to the building! In the main building, the downstairs corridor is being repainted and we are also putting carpet in. We have told the learners of these plans today to prepare them, however it may be helpful to remind them of this before the return to school after half term.

Lunchtime clubs

Staff are currently in the process of planning some new lunchtime clubs! These will be starting next term. If your learner has any suggestions for clubs that they would enjoy, then please let us know!

Jokes of the Week!

I went to the doctor last week. I asked him ‘Do you have anything for wind?’ He handed me a kite!

What do you give an elf that wants to grow?
Elf raising flour!

What day do chickens hate?
Friday!

Thank you to George, Benji and Arran for the excellent jokes this week!!

Headteacher's Award



This week, we are delighted to award our Headteacher’s Award to Ella! This is for always giving 100% to everything she does. Well done Ella - your hard work and determination is clear to us all!



Our Values Stars of the Week

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



Respect
&
Resilience

Health
&
Happiness

Kindness
&
Independence

For this half of the spring term, **kindness** is our focus. This week, we have chosen just one learner from each class to be our kindness champions! Well done to these learners for all their kind actions this week.

Aspen

Theo for helping to tidy our patio and being really kind whilst teaching others to play uno

Oak

Charlie for bringing in solar robot kits to share with his peers during breaktime

Larch

Phoebe for showing kindness to friends in all situations

Holly

Toby for outstanding support of peers in ICT this week

Elm

Kai for being kind and supportive to friends and teachers

Chestnut

Rosie for always being kind to others

Hazel

Beth for being consistently kind to staff and peers

Ash

Jade for showing kindness to others

Lime

Louis for supporting his peers to navigate public transport

Maple

Tia for going out of her way to be kind and helpful to staff and learners

Food Tech

It's been another successful week in the Food Tech department, seeing year 10 learners complete their final BTEC practical assessments. Larch class created their own snack surveys and were learning what were people's favourite sweet and savoury snacks. Aspen class made some delightful Italian biscuits. Beech class have made scone based pizzas and completed a shopping list for next weeks bread based pizzas. Elm and Holly class completed skills sheets for their Spaghetti Bolognese last week. We then had a comprehensive fresh filled pasta introduction, where they got to grips with the pasta machine, adjusting the thickness, filling and sealing the pasta, cooking and taste testing. Learners in Ash, Hazel and Chestnut have made fantastic progress with completing practical assessments, where they got to share their recipe with another peer or LSA within school. Learners in Post 16 and year 11 have also been busy completing recipe cards and practicing their chosen recipes.

Next week, Aspen and Larch will make sweet scones. Oak class will make breakfast frittata. Elm and Holly class will be making fresh filled pasta from scratch, starting with kneading the dough and then experiment with fillings and shapes. Ash & Hazel will continue completing final practical assessments and gathering evidence, whilst newer learners will make a home made pesto. Year 11 and post 16 will be writing recipe cards and practicing their recipes. Level 2 learners will be making bread and butter pudding. Chestnut have had to reschedule their Spaghetti Bolognese to next week and two learners will be completing their final BTEC practical assessments.



Safer Internet Day

Next Tuesday (6th) is Safer Internet Day and this year, the theme is ‘Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online’. In classes, we will be discussing how we navigate the internet and keep ourselves safe, whilst also appreciating what a brilliant tool the internet can be!

To kick start the event, we are sharing these top tips from the official Safer Internet Day website for parents and carers:

Inspire change by modelling how to be safe online

Just like in their offline lives, children need role models online too. Set clear and fair expectations about how the whole family should use the internet and technology, and demonstrate these yourself. A Family Agreement is a great way to start conversations and put your ideas down on paper, to refer back to later and adapt as your child and your family’s internet use changes.

Make a difference by having regular discussions about the online world

Having regular and open conversations with your child about their use of technology and the internet is the best way to stay up to date, not only with changes in the online world, but also with what they are doing and seeing online. Starting these conversations can sometimes feel daunting, but they can help you feel more informed and show your child that you are taking an interest in their online life. Not sure where to begin? Use the tips and conversations starters in our “Let’s Talk About Life Online” resource.

Manage influence by researching the content and games your child enjoys the most

Giving young people the opportunity to talk about their life online, and enjoying online content together, can be a great way to gain an insight into the content they are viewing. Our ‘Parents and Carers Resource Sheet’ is a great tool that you can use to research any websites, apps and games and find out more about specific content.

Navigate change by knowing where to go for further support

If your child needs help, it’s important you know where to go for further support. Using the report and block buttons, websites such as ‘Report Harmful Content’, and other safety tools is a great starting point. It can also be useful to discuss any concerns or worries with your child’s school as they may be able to offer further advice and guidance. It can also help to talk to other parents and carers who may have experienced something similar.

For more information, please visit this [link](https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024): <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024>



Term Dates

Our term dates for the 24/25 academic year have now been confirmed.
Please see below:

Term Dates 2024/25

Autumn Term

Inset Day 2nd September

Inset Day 3rd September

Inset Day 4th September

Pupils Return Thursday 5th September

Half Term - school breaks up Friday 18th October

Inset Day 4th November

Inset Day 5th November

Pupils return Wednesday 6th November

End of Term - **Friday 20th December** - school finishes at 1pm

Spring Term

Pupils Return Monday 6th January 2025

Half Term - school breaks Up Friday 14th February

Pupils Return Monday 24th February

End of Term - **Friday 4th April** - school finishes at 1pm

Summer Term

Pupils Return Monday 28th April

Bank Holiday - Monday 5th May

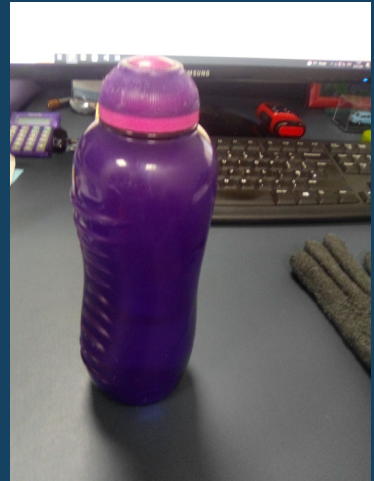
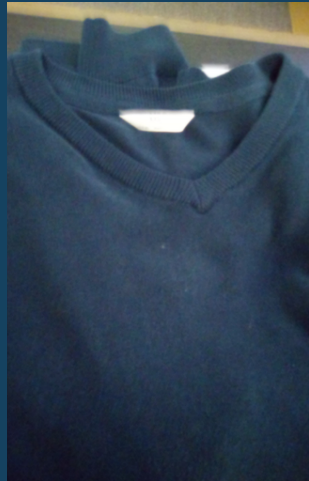
Half Term - school breaks up Friday 24th May

Pupils return Monday 2nd June

End of Term - **Friday 11th July** - school finishes 1pm

Lost Property

A reminder of all lost property we have in the office! Please note, anything unclaimed by half term will be disposed of.



Next Week

We are now on to our final week of the first half of the spring term!

SPRING 1 - WEEK 5

MONDAY
Outdoor Education
Oak & Larch
(First Aid & Safety)
Food
Hazel
(Final Practicals/Pesto)
Aspen
(Sweet Scones)

TUESDAY
Outdoor Education
Holly, Elm & Y9 Chestnut
(First Aid & Safety)
Food
Year 11/Post 16
(Recipe cards)
Larch
(Sweet Scones)

WEDNESDAY
Outdoor Education
Beech & Aspen
(First Aid & Safety)
Food
Elm
(Fresh pasta)
Ash
(Final Practicals/Pesto)
Oak
(Breakfast frittata)

THURSDAY
Outdoor Education
Ash, Hazel & Y10 Chestnut
(First Aid & Safety)
Food
Holly
(Fresh filled pasta)
Post 16
(Recipe Cards)

FRIDAY
Outdoor Education
Maple & Lime
(First Aid & Safety)
Food
Beech
(Bread based pizza)
Chestnut
(Spaghetti bolognese/final assessments)

Safeguarding

This week, we have two safeguarding items to draw your attention to. Firstly, Wizz - a popular networking app. Whilst it can be a great way to connect, it can also be there a no robust age verification checks and users can be exposed to explicit content. The attached guide provides helpful advice for families regarding keeping safe on the app.

Additionally, we would like to highlight a recent trend online - Rule 34. If Rule 34 is typed before anything on a google search, for example 'Rule 34 Fortnite', it will show explicit content linked to that topic. This is trending on many sites and something that many young people are aware of.

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WIZZ

AGE RESTRICTION
12+
12+ App Store
Teen Google Playstore

Wizz is a networking app which allows users to connect and chat with other people around the world. Its principle is similar to a dating platform: users have a profile with up to three photos, along with optional interests and hobbies tags. This allows other like-minded people to be recommended in searches. If a user likes what they see on someone's profile, they can initiate conversation through the instant message feature; otherwise they swipe on. The app *does* use age verification technology when an account is created and groups users by age.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

OVER-SHARING

Immediately after setting up an account, users start receiving friend requests (mainly from the opposite gender). For many young people, this will be exciting and a boost to their confidence. As young people tend to be more trusting online and may believe what others tell them, however, this can lull them into dropping their guard and revealing personal information to strangers.

CATFISHING AND PREDATORS

Wizz uses Yoti, a digital ID system, to verify users' age. The AI only detects approximate age, though – so an older person who looks younger could be grouped with teens (or vice versa). Also, profile pics on Wizz don't have to match the face of the person who did the initial age verification: it would be fairly easy to create a fake account using another person's photos with a made-up name and age.

EXPLICIT CONTENT

During our research, conversations on Wizz very quickly turned sexual. Users frequently suggested 'taking it to Snap' (Snapchat's disappearing image feature can make it conducive to sharing explicit selfies), connecting on other social media, swapping nude or semi-nude pictures, or holding sexual chats. These users created an impression of the platform being sleazy and unsafe for young people.

INTIMATE IMAGES

It's not unheard of for young people to be coaxed into sending suggestive images of themselves over apps of this kind. Given that Wizz connects users with strangers, who may not be honest about their real intentions, a teenager might conceivably be persuaded to share sexually suggestive selfies by someone who they believed they had a trusting relationship with.

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

The app claims to provide a secure and inclusive environment, but our researcher couldn't find any parental controls or safety features in evidence. If you report another user for inappropriate behaviour, you are offered the option to block them – but there's no indication as to whether the block has actually been successful, and there was no follow-up contact from the developers.

SECRETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Wizz sent our researcher occasional 'mystery' friend requests from a blurred-out profile. To discover the sender's identity, users can either watch a video (usually an ad for a game or app) or take out a monthly subscription. Cynics might suggest this could be a way to exploit young people's curiosity into making them pay for the app, and that the 'secret admirers' are bots rather than real people.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT OUT

If your child has downloaded Wizz, talk to them about why they like it and who've chatted with. Have they shared any personal details with this person or connected with them on other social media platforms? Refresh your child's memory of the various risks that can arise from engaging with strangers online and get them to consider using a similar app with more robust safety features.

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Young people are far more inclined to see the good in others; they often overlook the fact that scammers set up fake accounts on apps like this with the intention of getting money or personal data. Remind them that not everyone online is who they claim to be, how easy it is for someone to create a bogus profile, and why it's vital to think twice about sharing anything on networking apps.

BE SUPPORTIVE

When connecting with strangers on apps like Wizz, seemingly innocent chats can quickly progress to become sexually explicit and lead to nudes being sent. Make sure your child knows to come to you if they're uncomfortable about anything they've been sent or been asked to send. If they've already shared something that they now regret, reassure them that you'll support them no matter what.

KEEP THINGS TRANSPARENT

It might feel awkward, but regular chats about your child's online life can be beneficial. If they seem suddenly anxious or secretive around their phone or tablet, they may have something they need to get off their chest. You could also consider not allowing digital devices in their bedroom, especially overnight – that's when a lot of the riskier conversations on apps like Wizz tend to take place.

Meet Our Expert

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



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=info.wizzapp&hl=en_GB&gl=US | <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/sexual-offences/sex-tortion/>