

SUMMER TERM 2 – WEEK 3

Welcome to this week's newsletter!

Next week in school is 'transition week'. Learners will come to school and register in their current classroom as usual on Monday, before meeting their new tutors. Please note the timetable changes on the next page to make sure your learner has the right equipment for each day!

Headteacher's Award



This week the Headteacher's Award goes to Macie H, who has made a great start at school, staying the whole day on Thursday.

Special mention also to Wilson C from Alley House for joining in and even making it to the airport this week!

Jokes of the Week!

Benji:

What is a cat's favourite colour?
Purr-ple!

Daylun:

Knock knock - who's there?
Christopher - Christopher who?
Christopher Robin!

Cameron:

What did the shark say to the clownfish?
You taste a little funny!

Jack:

Why did the picture go to prison?
He was framed!

REMINDER:

**Sports Day is Thursday 27th June
Don't forget your kit!**



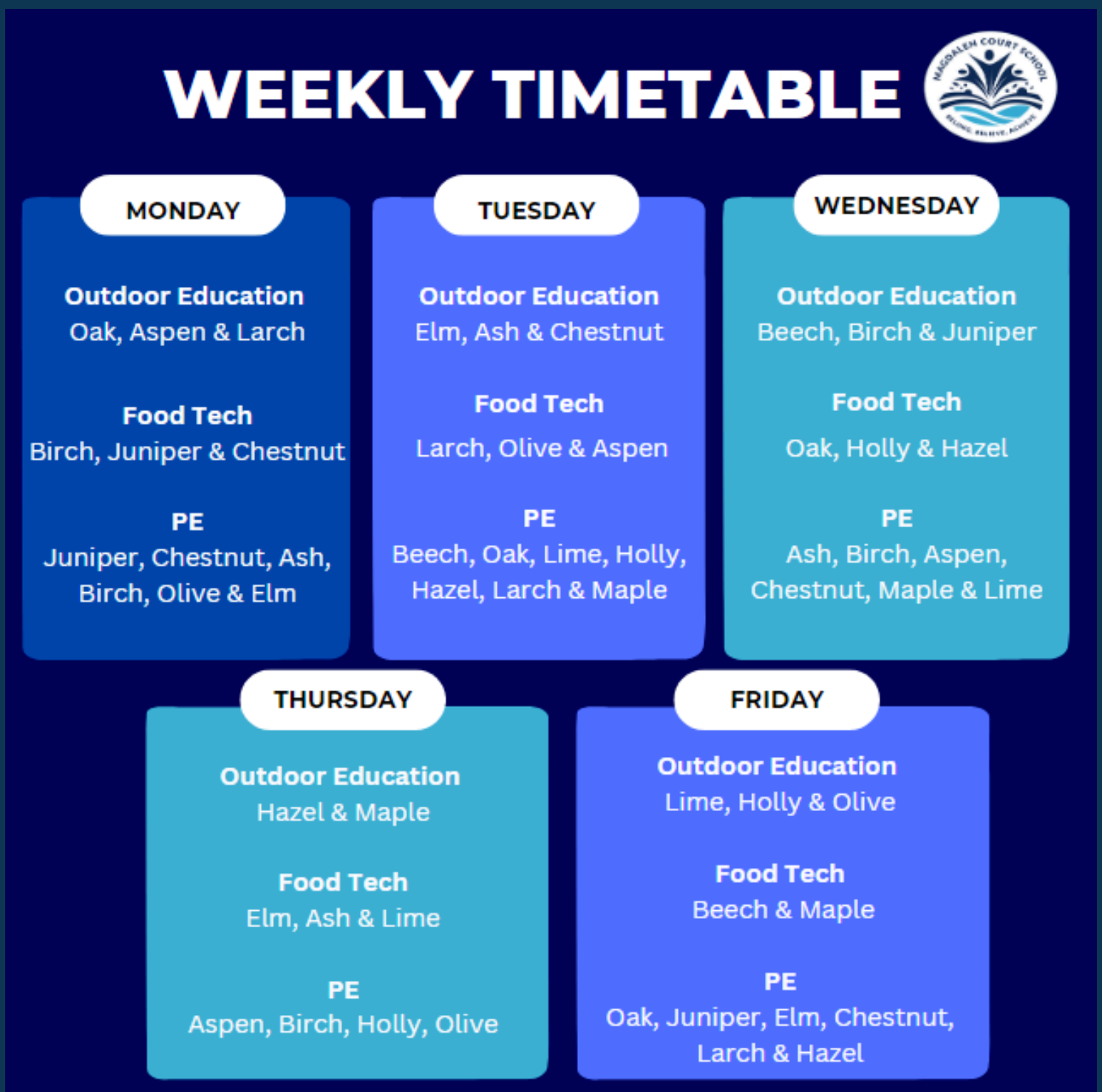
Next week's timetable

Below you will find a day-by-day guide to which classes are on Outdoor Ed, as well as who has PE and Food Tech lessons, to enable you to send your learners in with the right kit/equipment for the day

PLEASE NOTE these are learners' NEW classes, not their current ones!

Further details about what everyone will be cooking up in Food Tech appear towards the end of this week's newsletter as usual.

Look out for an introduction to our new teachers in next week's newsletter!



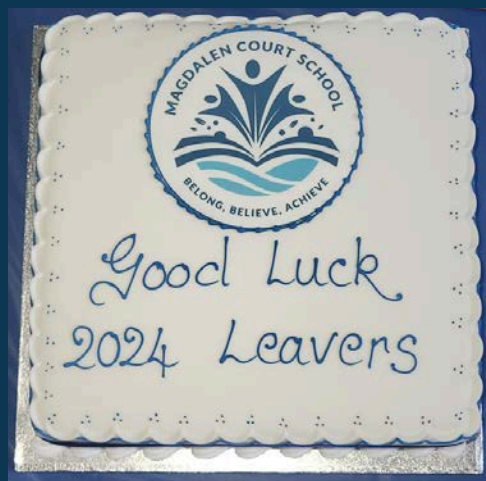
The image is a weekly timetable for Megdalen Court School, set against a dark blue background. At the top right is the school's logo, which features a stylized tree and the motto 'SINCERE. BEHIVE. ACTIVE.' The main title 'WEEKLY TIMETABLE' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below the title, the timetable is organized into five colored boxes representing the days of the week: Monday (dark blue), Tuesday (medium blue), Wednesday (light blue), Thursday (teal), and Friday (medium blue). Each box lists the subjects and the corresponding tree species for that day.

Day	Outdoor Education	Food Tech	PE
Monday	Oak, Aspen & Larch	Birch, Juniper & Chestnut	Juniper, Chestnut, Ash, Birch, Olive & Elm
Tuesday	Elm, Ash & Chestnut	Larch, Olive & Aspen	Beech, Oak, Lime, Holly, Hazel, Larch & Maple
Wednesday	Beech, Birch & Juniper	Oak, Holly & Hazel	Ash, Birch, Aspen, Chestnut, Maple & Lime
Thursday	Hazel & Maple	Elm, Ash & Lime	Aspen, Birch, Holly, Olive
Friday	Lime, Holly & Olive	Beech & Maple	Oak, Juniper, Elm, Chestnut, Larch & Hazel

This week we said 'farewell' to some of our older learners who are leaving for pastures new. We had a great time celebrating with them on Thursday evening and wish them all the best as they go on to whatever comes next - we know they have bright futures ahead of them!



Goodbye!





SUMMER FETE: PAFOM UPDATE

Our planning for the Summer Fete is well underway! Save the date: July 5th, 4-6pm. We have a lot of exciting activities lined up, including bottle, chocolate, and teddy tombolas, a lucky dip, and our mega raffle featuring two £50 Amazon vouchers, one generously donated by C + M Water. Enjoy a variety of cakes, refreshments, and our special fruity mocktails.

Test your luck with our new game, "Play Your Cards Right." Prepare to be amazed by a live performance from Red Suit Magic of the Magic Circle.

We need YOUR help to make our Summer Fete truly excellent. Please consider donating items for the raffle, chocolate, or drinks tombola. Your contributions will make a big difference!"

BREAKING NEWS

Hungarian hogs move to Exmoor

A species of hairy pigs from Hungary have been introduced to Exmoor to help create a better habitat for Britain's most endangered butterfly.

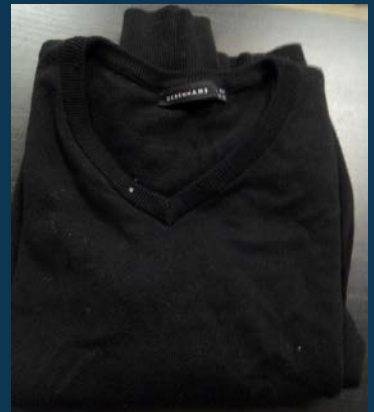
They will act as 'living lawnmowers', helping to produce ideal breeding conditions for the High Brown Fritillary butterfly, whose numbers have fallen by two thirds since 1978.

Team work makes the dream work! Maybe some of our learners will spot a hairy hog on their next Outdoor Ed trip?!



LOST PROPERTY

Do you recognise these items? If not claimed by the end of term they will be disposed of or donated - so contact Mel now if they belong to you!





Our Values
Stars of the Week

Respect
&
Resilience

Health
&
Happiness

Kindness
&
Independence

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

Aspen

Charlotte for her fantastic map reading skills

Oak

Ted Tagg for coming to school with enthusiasm and trying the learning in class this week

Larch

Kellan for independently managing his timetable

Beech

Jacob Lyne-Ley for independently making new friends

Holly

Oscar for increased self-management and sustained effort - well done!

Elm

Jack P for consistently working independently to a high level, especially in maths and English

Chestnut

Emma for using her words and showing growing independence

Ash

Camron-Jon for supporting the learning of other students

WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Food Tech

It's been a super productive and exciting week in the Food Tech department as all BTEC Home Cooking Skills, Level 1 and Level 2 assessments and coursework have been completed. I was absolutely thrilled and proud of each learner for working to the best of their ability, the team work and camaraderie between learners has been fantastic and the food was excellent, really well done!


This week in Food Tech Learners in Aspen made toasted sandwiches. Larch class completed their design and make challenge by making and presenting their sandwiches, which were fabulous. Learners in Oak class completed a soup tasting and product analysis. Learners in Beech class have started a design and make challenge where they are planning a healthy two-course meal for a leisure venue. Learners in Chestnut missed their Food Tech session due to a school trip on Wednesday, I heard they had fun. Level 1 learners in Holly, Elm & Ash classes completed their coursework and final practical assessments, well done. Level 2 learners who are leaving completed their coursework and two-course meals for their practical assessments, Bravo!

Level 2 learners in year 10 made potato salad and chicken Caesar salad.

Next week, classes Aspen and Larch will make pinwheel sandwiches. Year 7 groups Juniper and Oak will be making a vegetable soup. Year 8 learners in Birch and Beech class will either begin or get started with cooking the main course for their design and make challenge for a leisure venue. Year 9 classes Elm and Ash will be missing Food Tech due to our sports day. Learners in Olive class will be making spicy prawn pasta. Learners in Chestnut class will also be starting their design and make challenge for a leisure venue. Year 10 learners in Maple and Hazel will be making mini cheesecakes. Year 11 and post 16 classes Holly will be making salad niçoise and Lime class will miss Food Tech next week due to our sports day event.



SUMMER 2 - WEEK 4



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Outdoor Education Oak, Aspen & Larch	Outdoor Education Elm, Ash & Chestnut	Outdoor Education Beech, Birch & Juniper
Food Birch	Food Larch	Food Oak
Design & make meal challenge	Pinwheel sarnie	Vegetable soup
Juniper	Olive	Holly
Vegetable soup	Spicy prawn pasta	Niçoise salad
Chestnut	Aspen	Hazel
Design & make 2 courses	Pinwheel sarnie	Mini cheesecake

THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Outdoor Education Hazel & Maple	Outdoor Education Lime, Holly & Olive
Food Elm	Food Beech
Lemon biscuits	Design & make meal challenge
Ash	Maple
Design & make 2 course meal	Mini cheesecake
Lime	
Niçoise salad	

Safeguarding

This week, our safeguarding focus is Snapchat.

This is a very popular app used by many young people. We are aware of recent illegal activity within a local group, and would like to remind parents to be extra vigilant, especially around group chats that young people may be joining.

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS AND BLACKMAIL

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages feature by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them (regardless of whether it is true or not) and will share them online unless they send them money. Teens then (understandably) panic and worry about the long-term consequences. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – either on this app or others.

EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight'. It claims the content shown here is relevant to each user, but it could also be seen as an easy way to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore,

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

VISIBLE LOCATION

A feature called 'SnapMaps' highlights your device's exact position on a virtual map, which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, selected friends or just you. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to help friends keep track of each other – but it could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET CONTROLS VIA FAMILY CENTRE

Snapchat has parental controls called 'Family Centre'. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. This allows you to view their friends list, see who they have chatted with in the last 7 days (but not to view the specific messages) and report any concerns.



TALK ABOUT REAL LIFE SCAMS

If a young person is mature enough to have Snapchat, then they are mature enough to have a conversation about scams, nudes and blackmail. Have this discussion before you let them join. Share some real-life examples. Discuss the importance of never adding strangers and discourage them from sharing nudes. If they are lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately, then block and delete the predator and screenshot any evidence.

DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage children to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind children that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some 'challenges' which become popular on the platform may have harmful consequences.



KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone a user adds unless they change their settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled. It's safest for a child to avoid adding people they don't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows people to see where users regularly visit.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.



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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College