



SPRING 2 – WEEK 1

We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half term week, and has arrived back at school refreshed and ready for a new half term!

We are beginning preparations for the upcoming summer exam season, so if you are the parent/carer of one of our older learners, please check out the information in that section below and look out for an email from school with exam and end of term details.

Joke of the week - Benji

How do bees get to school?
On the school buzz!

Dates for the diary

Coffee morning: 13th March -
Maple class

Headteacher's Award



This week the Headteacher's Award
goes to

Seth

for engaging with learning and being
in the right place at the right time!

NEW TERM DATES

Available now on our website! Head to the 'parents' area and scroll down to find 2025-2026 term dates.

YEAR 11 & POST 16 UPDATE

Personalised exam timetables are now being sent out to older students with details of their exam entries.

For learners in Year 11 and post-16 who are leaving us in September, there will be a Leavers' Evening event on Thursday 19th June (timings TBC) and their last day with us will be a day out at Adrenalin Quarry on Friday 20th June. More information about end of term arrangements will be available after all placements for 2025/6 are confirmed and invites will be sent in due course!

Please note that any older students remaining at MCS next academic year will need to attend school until the end of term as normal.

CAREERS



AMAZING ART!

Check out this awesome artwork produced by Jack L in Birch class!

Using paint and mixed media, Jack has made a variety of pieces that form an impressive collection - well done Jack!



Our Careers Fayre is coming up on Tuesday 18th March.

There will also be an opportunity to speak to your child's teachers as we are incorporating a face-to-face parents' evening as part of this event.

Don't forget that there is also a way for parents to get involved by supporting our Careers Presentation event, talking about your job and your route into that career. Please contact Sophie or David if you'd like to help with this by emailing the office: office@magdalencourt.org.



HIGHLIGHTING... BEHAVIOUR

We have produced a poster which is now displayed in classrooms and around school, making our behaviour expectations clear for all learners.

Based on our school values and incorporating aspects of our newly updated school Behaviour Policy (which can be found on our website in 'key information'), the poster begins with our focus for this half term:

Be in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing

We are using a system to track instances of learners being out of class during lessons, aiming to reduce this from current levels to ensure that students are attending and engaging with lessons. We will provide an update on progress with this at the end of term.

It is also important that learners are in the right place and doing the right thing during lunchtimes!

Belong Believe Achieve

Our School Community Behaviour Standards

Try your best, in everything you do:

- Be in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing.
- Work hard, let others work too.
- Be Respectful: self-respect, respect for our school community – people and property.
- Respect other's personal space – no physical interactions.
- Treat others with kindness.
- Wear school uniform – show you are a member of our school community.

Practice our school values.



HIGHLIGHTING... ATTENDANCE

Please ensure that information about absences is communicated to the school office by 8.15am - whether it's illness, an appointment or another reason:
01392 494919 or
office@magdalencourt.org, or send a message via the Arbor app

Please include your child's full name and the reason for their absence. This is required daily, even if the reason for ongoing absence is the same.

Class DoJo is for communication with teachers only - absence information **must** be given directly to the school office.

For further details about how to communicate with school, including how to use class DoJo, please check out the document on the 'Communicating with school' section of the website for Parents.

UPDATING SCHOOL RECORDS

The admin team are currently working to check and update our school records - thank you if you have already taken the time to complete our Parents and Guardians Data Check form. Please complete this as soon as possible, or let the admin team know if you need any support to complete this form or if you would prefer a paper copy.

Idiom & word of the week for Spring Term 2, week 2:

Idiom of the week

Jump through hoops

To jump through hoops means to go through many difficult tasks to achieve something.

Origin

This phrase probably came from circus performances, where animals were trained to jump through hoops, demonstrating how hard their trainers had worked to achieve this.

How to use it?

Organising our holiday involved jumping through all sorts of administrative hoops!



Word of the Week

Jocular

Adjective

Funny or intended to make someone laugh, or a person who is happy and likes to make jokes.

Example

The **jocular** man is known for his funny jokes.

The **jocular** comment brought a smile to her face.

Synonyms

Funny
Playful
Witty

THERAPY FOCUS

Do you have any spare beanie baby toys you no longer need at home and could donate to school? These would be perfect for our 'just right state' groups!

Here are this week's interoception practice prompts for **EYES**:

Reading a book	Stepping into sunshine	At bedtime/naptime	Wearing sunglasses	Watching a movie	In a crowded place	Underwater swimming	Watching bubbles float
Catching fireflies	Eating soup	When waking up	Looking for cloud animals	Looking at favorite item	In a dark room	In a bright room	Catching a ball

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS CALENDAR: MARCH

Mindful March 2025

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness	2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world	3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive	4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words	5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them	6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down	7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day
8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food	9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others	10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face	11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee	12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying	13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today	14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do
15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly	16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity	17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant	18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels	19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today	20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today	21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else
22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult	23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them	24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do	25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted	26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today	27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are	28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible
29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice	30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling	31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



Our Values Stars of the Week

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



Respect
&
Resilience

Health
&
Happiness

Kindness
&
Independence

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

Larch

Lukas for exuding happiness and always trying to make others smile

Olive

Eve for coping well with class changes

Elm

Finley D for increased independent working, making himself and his teacher happy!

Lime

Lidia for being a positive member of class

Beech

Tommy L for being so brave and friendly during his first week - we are so happy he has joined Beech class!

Holly

George for cheering us all up with his jokes and humour

Ash

Freddie for being an uplifting and positive presence in class

Aspen

Amiee for lighting up the class with her smile

Oak

Lucas for throwing himself so enthusiastically into outdoor ed and food tech this week

Hazel

Isabel B for bringing joy and positivity to the school community

Maple

Seth for increased engagement with science and maths

Juniper

Aiden for making a concerted effort to find happiness in their new school

We've had a brilliant start to the term in Food Tech this week. Learners in Larch class have done brilliantly with practicing knife skills when preparing vegetables for their savoury rice dish, which was delicious. Birch class enjoyed bread tasting and learning about the role of the sensory evaluators who work in the food industry, they also got to make a cheese and tomato panini. Ash and Oak class practiced coating and handling raw fish for some goujons which were served with a homemade dip. Elm, Beech and Aspen made some wonderful plain scones, served with clotted cream and jam. Juniper and Alley House prepared a pasta Fiorentina, which involved managing the hobs to cook the pasta and prepare a tomato sauce, which once ready was assembled and grilled with layers of cheese and fresh herbs. Olive class did brilliantly this week with preparing a beef lasagne, starting with basic ingredients to prepare a Ragu and then a white sauce using the roux method. Level 2 learners in Hazel, Maple, Lime and Holly prepared a lovely wild rice salad and learned about preparing dressings using oil and acids in various forms. Level 2 learners completing assessment coursework continued to make good progress with evidencing their understanding and completing hygiene and food safety.

Next week Larch class will prepare an egg fried rice recipe where they will get to continue practicing using the knives and focusing on the bridge hold method. Birch class will prepare a soda bread recipe. Ash and Oak class will make a herby vegetable crumble with lots of yummy veg such as leeks, peppers and onions, topped with a cheesy crumble topping. Elm, Beech and Aspen will continue practicing scones next week with fruit scones. Juniper and Alley House will practice knife skills and managing multiple hobs whilst preparing a cottage pie. Olive class will prepare lemon drizzle cakes or chocolate brownies and continue with gathering evidence for their BTEC coursework. Hazel, Maple, Holly and Lime class will be preparing a rice stir-fry with lots of vegetables and an excellent opportunity to develop more veg prep skills and cooking rice.



Next week:



SPRING 2 - WEEK 2



MONDAY

Outdoor Education
Birch & Larch

Food Tech
Elm & Aspen
Fruit scones
Ash
Herby vegetable crumble
Alley House
Cottage pie

TUESDAY

Outdoor Education
Beech, Oak & Ash

Food Tech
Larch
Egg fried rice
Olive
Lemon drizzle
Birch
Soda bread

WEDNESDAY

Outdoor Education
Elm, Aspen & Juniper

Food Tech
Oak
Herby vegetable crumble
Holly
Rice stir fry
Hazel
Rice stir fry

THURSDAY

Outdoor Education
Hazel & Maple

Food Tech
Lime
Rice stir fry
Juniper
Cottage pie

FRIDAY

Outdoor Ed
Lime, Holly & Olive

Food Tech
Beech
Fruit scones
Maple
Rice stir fry

Safeguarding

This week's focus is on Marvel Rivals. On the next page you'll find a guide with helpful information to support parents and carers with understanding and managing the risks around this new phenomenon.

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS



ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



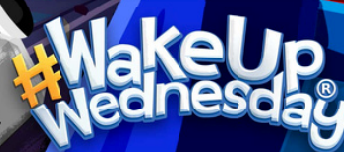
DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.



Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



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