



SUMMER 1 – WEEK 2

We have had a great week here at MCS. We've been trialling some new technology, looking at options for some of our new spaces from September. Learners have had a chance to test out VR and an 'active wall' experience, both were a lot of fun!

Sixteen of our learners will be out having fun on Dartmoor this weekend as they complete the Jubilee Challenge as part of the Ten Tors event. This is a great opportunity to learn new skills and work together as a team. We hope they all enjoy camping out and that the Dartmoor weather treats them kindly!

Headteacher's Award



This week the Headteacher's Award goes to
James W
for working hard on his language skills!

Dates for the diary

Coffee morning – Elm Class:
Thursday 15th May

Summer Fair: Friday 27th June
4–6pm

HIGHLIGHTING

UNIFORM


This term, we'd love to see our learners consistently adopting correct uniform clothing, creating a sense of community spirit and ensuring that school is an environment free from distractions or judgments based on what one is wearing.

Key features of our uniform policy:

- Plain black, navy or dark grey trousers/shorts/skirt - jogging bottoms or leggings are acceptable, but must be **UNBRANDED**
- Plain white t-shirt or shirt - **NO CROP/REVEALING/TIGHT TOPS PLEASE**
- Black, navy or dark grey jumper/cardigan - **NO HOODIES PLEASE**
- Black shoes or trainers

Please ensure that your child's uniform follows these guidelines and is suitable- shorts and skirts should be an appropriate length (not too short please!).

TRANSPORT



Mel's memo

If your child is absent, please **contact the school office** with a reason e.g. illness by 9am. You can do this via the Arbor app, phone or email. We will let the class teacher know.

Please do this for every day of absence.

We have application forms for Independent Travel Training for any Y11/post-16 learners, and anyone who would like to learn to travel independently to school or college. Please ask for a form from the school office.

Any students leaving us who will still require transport to college should visit:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/guide/post-16-transport/vacant-seats/>

to apply for ongoing transport arrangements with DCC..

FOOTBALL RESULTS!



Last week we took a team of year 9/10s to play two matches, beating Orchard Manor 3-1 and Barley Lane 3-0, showing a brilliant term performance all round! Well done to all who took part.

CAREERS

Parents and carers are invited to come into school and talk about their chosen profession with our learners - what skills you need, what route you took into your job - to help our students with their own career choices. Please contact David for information: dphillips@magdalencourt.org



THERAPY FOCUS

We practice interoception as part of our school curriculum. Paying attention to our senses helps us know about what's going on for us physically and emotionally. The ability to notice body signals increases our ability to identify and manage emotions.

It can be easiest to notice these signals when an activity provokes a strong sensation. These activities help us practice paying attention to those feelings.

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

Hugging a loved one	Taking a shower/bath	After active play/exercise	Going outside in the cold	Stretching	Playing on playground	Carrying a heavy load	Running around
During tickle time	Getting a massage	Watching TV	At bedtime	Reading a book	In a warm car	In the freezer section at store	Laying under lots of blankets

Idiom & word of the week for Summer Term 1, week 3:

Idiom of the week

Money doesn't grow on trees

Money is a limited resource and not easy to get!

Origin

The origin of this saying is unclear, but has been included in books since the 1800s.

How to use it?

When I asked for the new iPhone, Mum just said that money doesn't grow on trees!



Word of the Week

Embellish

Verb

To make something more attractive or interesting by adding extra details.

Example

Fans often **embellish** stories about their heroes.

The dress was **embellished** with gold embroidery.

Synonyms

Enhance
Garnish
Dress up



Our Values **MAGDALEN**
Stars of the Week COURT SCHOOL



Respect
&
Resilience

Health
&
Happiness

Kindness
&
Independence

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

Larch

Aleksandra for being kind and co-regulating with staff

Juniper

Aiden for supporting new class members

Elm

Ethan R-J for his positivity and great effort this week

Oak

Oscar M for sharing ideas when playing games, such as Uno!

Olive

Dainton for being friendly to all in Olive

Beech

Maisie Brown for treating people & places with kindness

Holly

Beth for showing kindness to staff with the thoughtful loom bands she makes for them

Hazel

Thomas for listening and taking on board advice from peers

Maple

Justin for his cheerful and positive attitude

Birch

Theo for sharing his super den with the class during downtime

Ash

Louis for working well with his science partner

Aspen

Seb for bringing a smile to Aspen class

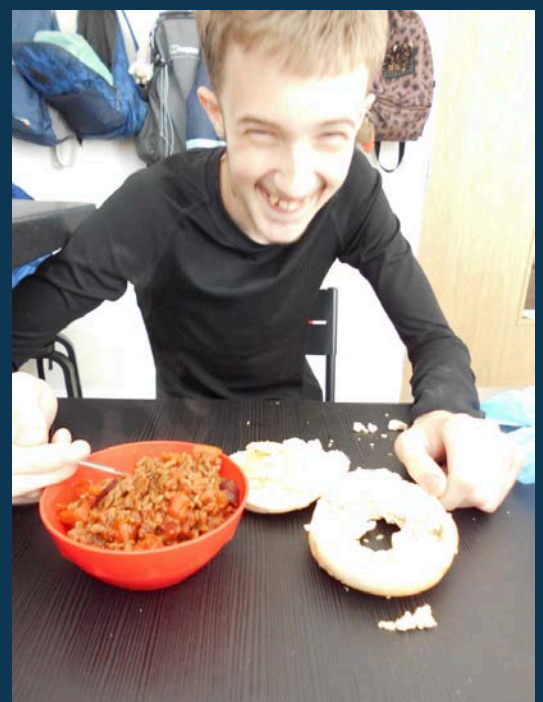
Lime

Lidia for being a supportive friend and a great role model

FOOD TECH

We've had a stunning week in the Food Tech department! Larch class produced some fantastic winter vegetable pies and impressed me with their safe knife skills. Birch class prepared a super zesty lemon and courgette linguine, very classic and quick. Oak class made a wonderful vegetable curry with chickpeas, potatoes and spinach served with flat breads, yogurt and mango chutney. Beech class prepared a classic chilli con carne recipe using basic store cupboard ingredients, which was served with rice. Level 1 learners in Alley House and Juniper class prepared their selected recipe with great success, well done. Learners in Olive class have continued to finalise their assessment coursework, whilst the remaining learners prepared a chilli con carne with further independence, this group have risen to the challenge of working with more independence this week, really well done. Groups Hazel and Maple have prepared barbeque spare ribs with a side of celeriac slaw. The ribs were poached for two hours, before being marinated with a homemade BBQ sauce and finished in the oven, learners also practiced making mayonnaise from scratch and using it to make a slaw, great effort. It has been a brilliant week for Level 2 learners in KS4/5, those learners who have completed their assessment packs this week have worked incredibly hard, really well done.

Next week, Larch class will prepare a mushroom and chickpea curry. Birch will prepare a spaghetti carbonara. Oak and Ash class are preparing lamb kofta with homemade tzatziki, served with flat breads. Aspen, Elm and Beech will prepare Lamb Rogan Josh. Level 1 learners in Alley House and Juniper will complete their hygiene and safety evidence before starting a recipe card for their chosen recipe with any adaptations they have made. Hazel and Maple will prepare barbeque sesame sweet potatoes and complete skills records for their BBQ spare ribs recipe.





SUMMER 1 - WEEK 3



MONDAY

Outdoor Education
Birch & Larch

Food Tech
Elm & Aspen
Lamb Rogan Josh
Ash
Lamb kofta
Alley House
Chosen recipe

TUESDAY

Outdoor Education
Beech, Oak & Ash

Food Tech
Larch
Mushroom & chickpea
curry
Olive
Lamb Rogan Josh
Birch
Spaghetti carbonara

WEDNESDAY

Outdoor Education
Elm, Aspen & Juniper

Food Tech
Oak
Lamb kofta
Holly
Pinwheel biscuits
Hazel
BBQ sesame sweet
potatoes

THURSDAY

Outdoor Education
Hazel & Maple

Food Tech
Lime
Pinwheel biscuits
Juniper
Chosen recipe

FRIDAY

Outdoor Ed
Lime, Holly & Olive

Food Tech
Beech
Lamb Rogan Josh
Maple
BBQ sesame sweet potatoes

Safeguarding

This week's safeguarding focus is on search engines. On the next page you'll find a guide with helpful information and advice to support parents and carers with these.

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS



Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION



Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE



Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

FUNNY JOKES

ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE



Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE



Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES



Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

AI OVERVIEW

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS



While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT



While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS



One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY



Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

