

W E E K L Y

NEWSLETTER

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



SPRING TERM 2 – WEEK 2

A wonderful Meet & Greet!

Many thanks to all the Parents & Carers who joined us on Tuesday for our Meet & Greet event. It was wonderful to introduce all our new members of staff, and show off the changes we have made in school - especially the new library!



Headteacher's Award

This week's Headteacher's Award is awarded to Seth, for his fantastic organisation of the Bake Sale. Seth planned the entire event, designed a poster and then worked with other students on the day - what a brilliant job!

Stars of the Week!



Oak - Freddie & Billy
Larch - Isabel
Beech - Oliver
Holly - Oliver
Elm - Beth
Hazel & Ash - James

New Library!

Our wonderful new library is now up and running! Thank you to all the learners who supported with moving the books and Mrs Smith for making sure all the books were in order! A big thank you as well to Freddie in Oak for a lovely donation of books!

Outdoor Ed

This week, learners have been practicing their map reading skills and you can see photos of their trips on page 4. Next week, learners will be focusing on Survival Skills! Please make sure all learners bring spare, waterproof clothing.

Well done to Seth!

A big well done to Seth for organising and baking lots of cakes for the Bake Sale on Tuesday! It was a great success and Seth raised £121.32. Thank you to all the learners and staff who made and bought cakes - we can't wait to get started on the garden project!

Water Bottles

Please can we ask that all learners are sent to school with a plain, reusable water bottle that is clearly named. Recently, learners have been using 'Prime' bottles, and we would ask that these are left at home in the future.

Highlights from Food Tech!

This week in Food Tech we had a phenomenal effort from Beech & Larch, preparing cakes and sandwiches for the bake sale at lunchtime on Tuesday. I was so impressed to see Beech class produce 6 different bakes in one lesson! Beech class have been awarded chef of the week for this fantastic effort and teamwork skills demonstrated on Monday. In addition, Larch class were incredible, preparing a range of delicious sandwich fillings, as well as food labels and pricing. Also this week, Post 16 practiced making flat breads with poached eggs with mango chutney and fresh chilli. Elm & Holly made banana and walnut bread - this was absolutely delicious served warm with butter. Hazel class made soda bread with homemade leek and potato soup, this was a great session to develop knife skills and practice making a traditional Irish bread recipe. Oak class made homemade cheese straws, these irresistible buttery and crunchy bite size treats are a great way to introduce the rubbing in method. Next week, groups in year 8 will make cinnamon breakfast rolls, year 9 are making spiced soda bread rolls and year 10 learners will be making Indian inspired flat breads. In post 16 learners will be making soda breads with soup and Oak class will make courgette and apple muffins.



Coming soon - Red Nose Day!

On March 17th, the school will be raising money for Red Nose Day, which supports lots of charities all across the UK!

We are asking all our learners to wear red on this day, as well as organising a bake sale. We would welcome any cakes that we can sell, and if anyone else would like to organise some fundraising events, then please speak to Grace in Willow!



WORLD BOOK DAY

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It's been a busy week at Magdalen Court, with our Meet & Greet event, our new library and Seth's bake sale. However, we've still found time to talk about World Book Day, which took place on 2nd March. We've been asking the Magdalen Court community what their favourite books are, and why!

Little House on the Prairie

This is my favourite book because I read it as a child and I love to read it again because I find it very comforting!

Olivia

Manga

I like Manga books, because I love Japan! I find Japan very inspiring and I like the drawings!

Jade

One Piece

The characters are three dimensional and loveable. The world is deep, rich and fascinating, the story is grand and epic with many a moving part.

Izak

Lord of the Flies

I like the character Piggy

Joe

Warrior Cats

I like cats and I've read nearly all of this series!

Neve

Vicky Angel

It's the book that got me into reading!

Izzy

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

This book is full of suspense!

James

Opal Plumstead

This is my favourite because I like romances and crime, and a bit of history

Isabel

Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince

It conveys Snape's emotions and Snape isn't as cold in this book.

Arthur

Warrior Cats

If a book is good, it has to be able to possibly make you cry or make you happy and this does!

Sophie

Outdoor Ed Highlights!

Our students have been working really hard on their map reading skills recently, so we've included some highlights below!



Safeguarding

This week, our safeguarding focus is Omegle - a website which many of our students are aware of and may be accessing. Omegle is a website that allows you to speak to strangers for live text or video chats. There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. However, it is known to feature inappropriate content and puts young people at risk of cyberbullying and exploitation. Our Parents and Carers guide to Omegle is featured on the next page.



Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to Omegle.com and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



What parents need to know about

OMEGLE



NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.



UNMODERATED CHAT

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to 'please be careful'. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.'



PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.



RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual/psychological grooming (users coercing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).



ADULT THEMED CONTENT

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.



Safety Tips For Parents

DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD

It is important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Guiding and educating young children is far more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will and do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasise the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.



PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it's important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming IDs. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.



REPORT CONCERNS

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.



DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filters or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into sharing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% failsafe.



TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app your child is using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers if/when you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add www.omegle.com to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.



Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



SOURCE: http://www.omegle.com