

WEEKLY

NEWSLETTER

MAGDALEN
COURT SCHOOL



SPRING TERM 2 – WEEK 3

Outdoor Education

This week, learners have been practicing their survival skills! Next week, learners will be continuing to build on their survival skills, focusing especially on cooking! We are forecast another wet week, so please bring spare, waterproof clothing.

Football success!

A huge well done to our football team who played their first match today against Orchard Manor. A full match report will follow next week!

Red Nose Day

Due to our exciting aquarium trip, we will now be celebrating Red Nose Day on Thursday 16th! Please encourage learners to wear red for a £1 and to bring money for a bake sale. Abbie, Rosie, Izzy and Lucy will also be offering hair chalks to raise extra money for this fantastic cause! We would love any donations of cakes or baked goods to sell! Please speak to Grace in Willow if you have any questions.



Headteacher's Award

This week's Headteacher's Award is awarded to Lexie for challenging herself and completing both her Star Reader and Star Maths assessments this week - well done Lexie, brilliant effort!

Stars of the Week!



Oak - Rosie
Larch - Arthur
Beech - Harrison
Holly - Ruby
Elm - Isabel
Hazel & Ash - Josh



Highlights from Food Tech!

This week in Food Tech we have been busy baking breads, rolls and breakfast buns. Beech and Larch made cinnamon scrolls which filled the school corridors with an amazing aroma! We had lots of compliments and they went down well with learners and staff. Holly made banana & walnut bread and Elm made spiced soda bread rolls, which were excellent served warm fresh out of the oven with some butter. Hazel class made egg and mango chutney flatbreads, with fresh chilli and yogurt dressing - this is an absolute winner for a speedy lunchtime meal. Ash made curried spinach and potato stuffed flat breads, which sounds easy but was actually quite tricky, well done everyone! In Post 16, learners made a leek and potato soup with soda bread, which was very popular with learners and staff. Finally, Oak class got grating and practicing rubbing in to make some delicious courgette and apple breakfast muffins. The Food Tech termly overview is now available on our school website for you to check over, if you wanted to repeat any of the recipes and practice skills at home.



Class Dojo

Following our Parent & Carer survey, we have made communication a real priority and, as such, have also been publishing these newsletters on Class Dojo, as well as emailed home. We are delighted that last week - 71% of Parents & Carers accessed the newsletter via Class Dojo! The newsletter is a great way to share important messages, as well as celebrating achievements, so please keep reading!

Aquarium Trip!

We are all really looking forward to our trip to Plymouth Aquarium next week! Learners will be travelling by coach, leaving school at approximately 09:45. We will be arriving at 11:00 for an exciting workshop before a break for lunch, and then an interactive tour in the afternoon.

We would ask that learners wear school uniform for the trip and please ensure that your learner is provided with a packed lunch as usual.

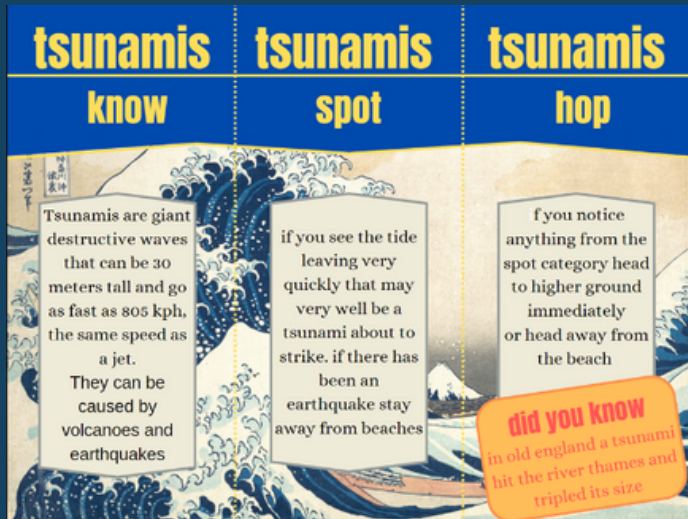
We look forward to a wonderful day out for the whole Magdalen Court community, and can't wait to report on it in next week's newsletter!



Tsunami warnings!

As part of their Geography studies, Beech class have been producing informative leaflets all about Tsunamis. Featuring information about what a tsunami is, how to spot one and, most importantly, how to survive - the learners produced digital leaflets and all did a brilliant job!

Toby

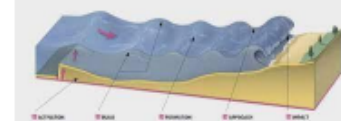


Harrison

(who was awarded star of the week for this work!)

Tsunamis

Do you want to know about tsunamis or how they start or just facts.



How are tsunamis made?

What is a tsunami? It's a big wave caused by an underwater landslide, underwater earthquake, volcanic eruption and coastal rockfall. Also tsunami is a Japanese word for harbour wave. It can also be caused by a meteor rarely.



Tsunami facts.

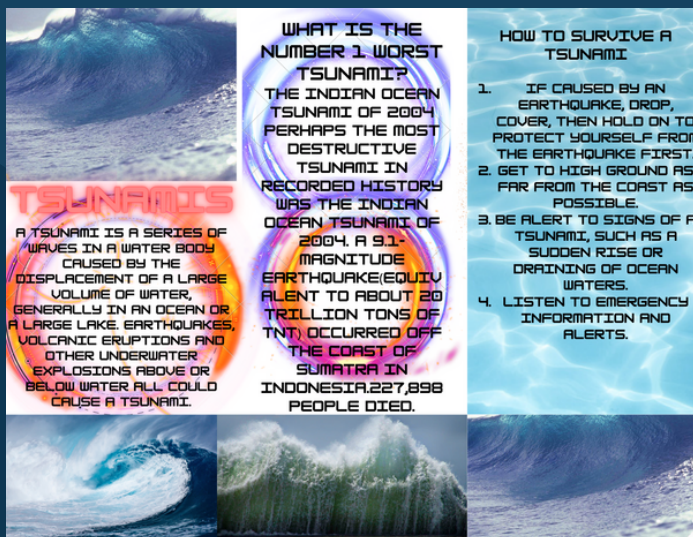
About 80% of tsunamis happen within the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire." Large tsunamis can last days in some locations. A tsunami is a series of waves. Often the initial wave is not the largest. In fact, the largest wave may not occur for several hours. There may also be more than one series of tsunami waves if a very large earthquake triggers local landslides, which in turn trigger additional tsunamis. Tsunamis can go 500 miles per hour.

How to survive a tsunami?

If caused by an earthquake, Drop, Cover, then Hold On to protect yourself from the earthquake first. Get to high ground as far inland as possible. Be alert to signs of a tsunami, such as a sudden rise or draining of ocean waters. Listen to emergency information and alerts. ...

Evacuate: DO NOT wait!

Go to high ground as fast as you can.



Thomas

Safeguarding

This week, our safeguarding focus is TikTok- a free, video sharing app that is incredibly popular with our learners. A 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17. We've included a Parents & Carers guide to TikTok below, and would advise taking some time to speak to your learner about if and how they are using the app.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthday.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs: increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday