

MAGDALEN GATES PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

NEWS BULLETIN 9th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a restful holiday and that 2023 has started the way that you desired. In school we have started back in the way that we finished, with the normal routines and curriculum in place. In assemblies, we are talking about the new school rules: **Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe**. These are a key part of our keen focus on making sure that all children are able to achieve their best every day in school. Please talk about these three rules with your child at home to support the message that every child needs to **Be Ready** to learn, **Be Respectful** to others and to **Be Safe** at all times. This is a key element in our vision to *work together to give every child the best*. Thank you for all that you do.

Mr Hutchinson

Little important reminders for all...

Have you remembered to book school lunches? The School Office staff spent a lot of time last week trying to sort lunches out for those that had not been ordered online. We would urge parents to please come and speak with the office in the morning if you are struggling to get online to order. We are very lucky here at Magdalen Gates that all our food is cooked fresh every day. The kitchen staff have to account for numbers and also only order enough food in for the numbers booked in advance.

Changed your contact details over the Christmas holiday? Please let the office know so we can keep important contact details up to date.

Is your child wearing the correct school uniform? If not please ensure they are.

Remember that pupils need to come into school with their PE kit on for the days their class has PE.

Theme Day Menu – Census Day

We hope all parents managed to read the email sent last week about a change to our lunch menu for Census Day on January 19th. There is no form to fill in on this occasion. Parents/Carers need to remember that the chicken burger is being replaced by Chicken nuggets (vegetarian option is vegetable nuggets) and the desert for all is chocolate brownie and ice cream

POPCORN READING CHALLENGE

Our new Popcorn Reading challenge is a challenge between classes. Yr1 against Yr2, Yr3 against Yr4 and Yr5 against Yr6. The classes that have the highest % each week (5 X or more) of reading will have popcorn in their Reading For Pleasure time. Any problems with your child being given popcorn PLEASE make your class teacher or the school office aware.

Reading Breakfast

We are pleased to announce we have booked in some more of our fabulous Reading Breakfasts. Please check out the diary dates and make a note in your diaries to come along and spend half an hour with your child in school.

Healthy Snacks

Last week we had a few children who had very unhealthy chocolate snacks at break time. Snack time should be a piece of **Fresh fruit or vegetables**. These are always the best snack choice for your children – they contain vitamins and minerals, are a good source of fibre and count towards their 5 A Day. Plus, they're easy to eat on the go!

Wellbeing – Parental Support

We are aware that the current cost of living is having an impact on many of our families. Don't forget that Carrie Brown our Parent Support Advisor can be contacted here at school.

School Contact Details

School Office hours – 8:15am – 3:30pm

Telephone 01603 622675

Email Office@magdalengates.co.uk

Out of school club contact –

01603 343881 3.30pm-5.30 pm only

SATS WEEK – MAY 2023

Schools have now been advised about the additional Bank holiday in honour of His Majesty King Charles which takes place on Mon 8th. SAT's tests will take place the same week but will start 1 day later on Tue 9th finishing on Friday 12th May.

Diary Dates

January

10th – Yr 4 Food Discovery

18th – Yr6 Dentist (15 selected pupils)

19th – 8:30-9am Yr1 Parents invited to phonics lesson

2:45pm-3:15pm EYFS Parents invited to phonics lesson

20th – Yr3 Reading Breakfast 8:30-9am

27th – Yr4 Reading Breakfast 8:30-9am

30th – Bikeability Course starts – more details to follow

February

3rd – Yr5 Reading Breakfast 8:30-9am

6th – Childrens Mental Health Week at school

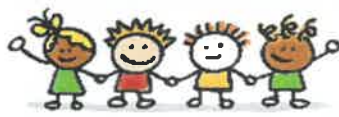
10th – Year 6 – Reading Breakfast

Last Day before school breaks for Half term

13th to 17th - HALF TERM

20th – Hearing & Vision checks for EYFS

Current School attendance 93.03%



Broadband set up

Have you set up appropriate settings on your broadband/Wi-Fi? Most broadband providers include parental controls for free as part of their broadband package, which means that any device that connects to your Wi-Fi will be protected by any controls you set up. Find out how to set yours up here:

Sky:

<https://www.sky.com/help/diagnostics/sky-broadband-buddy/sky-broadband-buddy>

BT:

<https://www.bt.com/help/security/how-to-keep-your-family-safe-online-with-bt-parental-controls-an>

Talk Talk:

<https://community.talktalk.co.uk/t5/Keeping-your-Family-Safe/bd-p/kfshub>

Virgin:

<https://www.virginmedia.com/broadband/parental-control>

Remember, children may have devices that use mobile data, so they won't always be connected to your wifi. Ensure you set up parental controls on these devices too.

Further information:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parental-controls-offered-by-your-home-internet-provider>

Test Your Internet Filter

SWGfL have created a tool to test your filtering to give you an indication that your broadband is blocking certain categories. Access it here: <http://testfiltering.com/>

Minecraft

Check the age ratings: Minecraft is rated by PEGI as 7+ or 12+ depending on which game version you are playing. The App store rate it as 9+ and the Google Play store rate it as 10+.

It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Minecraft does include a chat facility, which adds further risks of seeing inappropriate language/content. This can be switched off.

Minecraft remains ever popular and can be a great learning tool that is often used in schools to teach planning skills, recreate famous buildings in 3D and coding. Players use building blocks (a bit like Lego) to create their own worlds.

Which mode?

You can choose between Creative or Survival mode - creative mode removes the survival elements of the game (no mobs appearing at night) so may be a more appropriate mode for your child to play.

What else do I need to be aware of?

- **Multiplayer** – children can interact with others (including strangers), you can switch this option off within settings or choose to play offline.
- **Block and report players** – if your child is playing with others, make sure they know how to block and report players within the game.
- **Additional purchases** – be aware of in app purchases and the purchase of additional items (skin packs) to support (although not needed) game play.

In addition, protect your child's privacy by using a nickname (don't include their age/birth year) rather than their real name for their profile and chat to your child to make sure that when playing online they know not to share personal information.

Also, make sure they know they can talk to you or a trusted adult if anybody or anything is making them feel uncomfortable.

Do not forget to make sure you have set up appropriate parental controls on the device your child is using to play Minecraft as well.

Further information

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-minecraft-safe-for-children/>



WhatsApp

You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages, voice notes, photos and videos.

What are the features of WhatsApp?

Group chats: One of the key features is the group chat function. Everybody in the group, even if they are not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. *If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat.*

In settings, you can change who can add your child to groups, for example, you can change it to 'my contacts', which means that only those in your child's contacts can add them to a group. You can leave a group chat at any point so talk to your child and encourage them to leave any chat that makes them feel uncomfortable. You can leave groups silently (only the admin will be notified).

Location sharing: you can share your location on WhatsApp. Talk to your child about when this would be appropriate to use but also the potential danger of sharing their location, for example with strangers.

Blocking/Reporting: Show your child how to block and report.

Online Bullying: WhatsApp has been used in instances of online bullying, e.g. to send nasty messages or share images of other children without their permission. It is important to have regular chats with your child about their online life and that they understand that they must talk to you or another trusted adult if they are being bullied. This is a helpful article from Family Lives, which talks about what to do if you are being bullied:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/bullying/cyberbullying/what-to-do-if-you-re-being-bullied-on-a-social-network>

Disappearing messages: With disappearing messages, you can control how long a message can be seen for before it is deleted – 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days (once set, this will only work for new messages).

View once messages: when sending a photo or video, you can set it so it can only be viewed once by respondents. Screenshots are also blocked when using this function.

Choose who can see your profile pic and when you're online: In settings (privacy), you can choose who can and can't see when you're online and your profile pic. You can choose either Everyone, My Contacts, My Contacts except and nobody.

Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/whatsapp>



Whizz – Make new Friends App



Whizz is a social networking platform and is rated for 'Teens' on the Google Play store and as 12+ on the App store. It is free to download but does have in-app purchases ranging from £0.89 to £44.99.

Users swipe through the app to find people who are currently online and who they would like to chat with. **Users will be chatting with strangers, which can present risks.** Internet Matters have produced advice around chatting with strangers here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/connecting-safely-online/advice-for-parents/tackling-the-hard-stuff-on-social-media-to-support-young-people/chatting-to-strangers-online/>

Is YouTube safe?

The NSPCC have produced this article discussing the risks associated with using YouTube and the safety settings and features that are available depending on how old your child is and what they do on YouTube. You can access the article here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube/>

TikTok refresh

Parent Zone have worked with TikTok to produce a series about safety when using TikTok. You can find out more here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>

Back to school - 5 things to do to help manage winter illness

[Blog Editor](#), 5 January 2023 - [Health Protection](#)



As students start to return to school, it's important to be aware of the winter illnesses currently circulating and the best ways to protect your child and others. In this blog, we set out some of the simple actions that parents of school age children can take to help protect their families and those around them.

What's the current situation?

We are seeing high levels of [flu](#) and [COVID-19](#), which is likely to continue in coming weeks. We are also still seeing high numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by the bacteria Group A streptococcus. You can read more information about [strep A here](#). Read more about the [symptoms of scarlet fever here](#).

There are things we can all do to help stop the spread of infections; teaching young people to do these things will help them to stay well and protect others.

1 - Staying home when unwell

Knowing when your child should stay at home from school or nursery if they are poorly can help slow the spread of many winter illnesses.

- If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better, and the fever has resolved.
- If your child has diarrhoea and or vomits, they should stay off school or nursery for at least 48 hours after their symptoms clear up.

Adults should try to stay home when unwell too.

Children with a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough who are otherwise well and do not have a high temperature can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.

2 - Hand hygiene

Hand-washing is one the most effective ways to stop germs from spreading.

Regularly washing hands in soap and warm water for 20 seconds or using hand sanitiser when out and about can help you and your child to stay well and not pass on germs.

3 - Catching coughs and sneezes

Using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes and then binning it before washing your hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser can help to stop infection from spreading.

Teaching children this habit and providing them with tissues will help them to not pass on germs when they are unwell. [Our e-bug resources for Early Years](#) can help you to explain to your child what good hygiene habits are, how they can practice them and why they are important.

4 – Get vaccinated

Flu vaccination is still available for all eligible age groups and is the best protection against the virus.

We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness.

Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with. Children are offered the quick and painless nasal spray vaccine.

Children eligible include:

- Children aged 2 and 3 on 31 August in 2022
- All primary school-aged children
- Some secondary school-aged children
- Children aged 2 to 17 years with long-term health conditions

You can find more information on getting your child [vaccinated against flu, here](#).

For adults, both flu and COVID-19 vaccinations remain available. You can read about [who is eligible on the NHS UK website](#).

5 – Use NHS resources for more information about winter illnesses

Most winter illnesses can be managed at home and [NHS UK](#) has lots of information available to parents:

- [Information about flu symptoms and treating them at home](#)
- [Information about COVID-19 in children](#)
- [Information about scarlet fever symptoms and managing the illness](#)
- [Information about fevers in children and how to manage them](#)

Education resources on stopping the spread of germs

For teachers and those who work in education settings, our [e-Bug resource](#) has lots of free resources on educating children about stopping the spread of infection. This includes lesson plans on topics like hand hygiene and how coughs and sneezes spread illness.

Tags: [child health](#), [flu](#)

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