



# Parents' Weekly Newsletter

*'Thriving to achieve our best - together'*

25th June 2021

## Message from Dr Craddock

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today we were blessed with sunshine, as our key stage 2 and key stage 3 children took part in a fantastic, fun and memorable sports day. It was great to see all the children having a brilliant time competing in the sprint, space hopper race, shot put, relay, obstacle race and the long jump. The space hopper race provided lots of entertainment and the faces on the children, after they crossed the line, speaks volumes. Thank you children, for your co-operation and sportsmanship during the day. A special mention to our year 8 and year 6 sports leaders who supported the event with their time keeping, scoring and encouragement. Many thanks also to the whole staff team for their efforts to ensure the whole event ran smoothly. Finally, a huge congratulations to Gecko Team as they were presented the house cup this year.

All best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Dr Deborah Craddock



## Rights Respecting News

### Article of the Week

This week, we have been focussing on, 'World Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking', which is held each year on the 26th June. The day aims to highlight efforts across the world to achieve the goal of a world free from drug abuse and raise awareness of the major problem that illegal drugs represent to society. The theme for 2021 is 'Share Facts on Drugs, Save Lives' and aims to combat misinformation and promotes sharing the facts on drugs — from health risks and solutions to tackle the world drug problem, to evidence-based prevention, treatment, and care.

One article provides a particularly strong link this week: Article 33 – Governments must protect children from the illegal use of drugs and from being involved in the production or distribution of drugs. This states that parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.

During our weekly assembly, we discussed, 'Why is it important that all children and young people know the facts about harmful drugs?'



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We came up with many reasons as to why this is so important:

- Drugs are substances that can negatively affect your body and mind.
- Harmful drugs are illegal and you could get into trouble with the police, school, parents/carers.
- We need to know about the difference between legal drugs, from a shop or doctor, and harmful drugs that people sell to children and young people.
- You need to know about the laws in our country.
- You need to know it's OK to ask for help if you have a worry about yourself or someone you know using harmful drugs.
- Knowing about how harmful drugs are, will help you know that it's important to say no if you are ever offered any.
- Education is so important, the more you know about harmful drugs, the more support you know you are entitled to.
- You will know what to do if you have a worry about yourself or someone else.
- You know who to report a concern to.
- Using illegal drugs can make you act and behave in a different ways and can have a long-term impact on your life.

You might see lots of stories about harmful drugs, alcohol or tobacco on TV or in films. If you know what they are, it helps to know what is legal and what is not.

### **Reminder**



We are a 'Telling School', therefore if our children or staff see anything that worries or concerns them then they tell someone. All children know exactly who they can speak to in school about anything.

### **Blue Skies Programme**

Again this week, 'The Jon Egging Trust' has led some of our KS3 students in their third life skills workshop with JET. Their amazing 'Blue Skies Programme' focuses on raising confidence and aspirations; providing life skills that support students to focus on their learning and realise their potential, using core values of teamwork, leadership, and inspiration.



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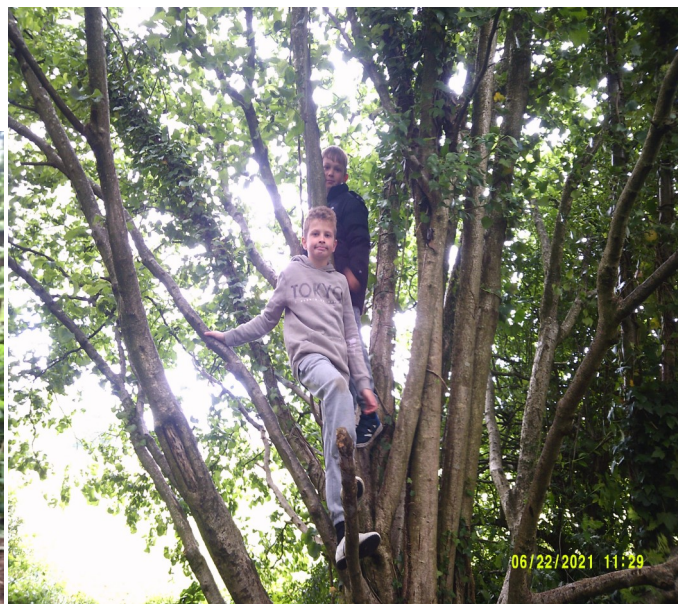
## Fun in the Sun at Forest School

Year 5 – After a warm up game of Aunt Sally, the children went to investigate a possible hedgehog hole on the field – verdict a drainage hole for the field. They then worked as a team to rig up a swing and take turns like Tarzan!



Year 6 – The challenge was on today to build a den that was water tight! Great team work and problem solving, only a small amount of water entered each den!

Year 7 – Lots of busy children. Some making rope swings, some dens, some using Viking wheels to make threads and other engaged in a very strategic game of Capture the Flag.







With over 14 million daily users, Discord is one of the most popular communication tools for gamers. It allows you to create or join what are known as 'servers', where different users can talk in groups via text message or voice call. There is also the option to send direct messages and make video calls.



# What parents need to know about DISCORD



<b>INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT</b> Your child can access almost any chat server on Discord. This means they can easily be exposed to content and conversations that are inappropriate, upsetting or potentially harmful. 	<b>SEXUAL IMAGERY</b> Despite there being guidelines in place to prevent it, users are able to circulate adult content. This can include sexualised images, pornographic videos and provocative discussions. It's important to stay alert and know the risks that your child could be exposed to. 	<b>RISK OF CYBERBULLYING</b> Interactions on the platform are largely unregulated. This means other users can easily say and show things to your child that might be offensive and upsetting. The competitive nature of gaming can lead users to make abusive and harmful remarks about your child. 	<b>HIDDEN CHARGES</b> Though the basic platform is free, your child will be encouraged to sign up to premium subscriptions, which give extra perks, such as animated emojis and free games. The two options are known as 'Nitro Classic' (which costs \$4.99 a month) and Nitro (which costs \$9.99 a month). Prices are only converted to pound sterling during the payment process. 	<b>RISK OF CYBERCRIME</b> Cybercriminal groups have been linked to the platform due to reports of hackers sharing stolen data. It's also possible that your child may be encouraged to share the data of their friends, either through peer pressure, or 'for fun', without realising the consequences. 	<b>STRANGER DANGER</b> To create an account, you only need to display a username and profile image. This makes it easy for someone to hide his or her real identity. Predators from anywhere in the world can join a chat server, message your child and quickly leave to avoid detection. Forbes reports groomers have been targeting children susceptible to online coercion on the platform. 
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## Top Tips to Protect Your Child



<b>1 BE WARY OF WHAT'S SHARED</b> Whatever your child says or shares on the platform can be seen, heard and shared with a much larger audience. Be careful to make sure your child understands this and does not say or share anything that could be deemed offensive, harmful or put themselves or others at risk. You can find Discord's own guide for parents here: <a href="https://blog.discordapp.com/parents-guide-to-discord-c77d91793e9c">https://blog.discordapp.com/parents-guide-to-discord-c77d91793e9c</a> 	<b>2 IMPROVE SECURITY SETTINGS</b> To help protect your child, make sure they set strong passwords. You should consider using the 'two-factor authentication' function for extra protection. It's also important to remind your child to never to share their personal information, or the details of another user. 	<b>3 CHECK THEIR FRIEND LIST</b> You can restrict who is able to make 'friend requests' to your child in the 'Friends' tab. It's a good idea to deselect the default option that allows anyone to connect. Of course, you should also talk to your child about why it's a risk to allow strangers to connect with them through such platforms. 	<b>4 REPORT &amp; BLOCK SUSPICIOUS USERS</b> Make sure your child knows how to report and block abusive or suspicious users. If you do find your child suffering repeated abuse, contact the platform directly using the email: <a href="mailto:abuse@discordapp.com">abuse@discordapp.com</a> . It's a good idea to teach your child how to screenshot any negative interactions too. 	<b>5 BE WARY OF NSFW CONTENT</b> Public forums on the platform are a potential venue for inappropriate content that you should be wary of. There is a Discord mascot known as 'Wumpus', which is supposed to represent anyone under 18. Anyone who posts content unsuitable for under-18s, should mark it NSFW (Not Suitable For Wumpus). 	<b>6 SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS</b> It's important you actively teach your child to treat other users with the same way as they would offline. Take the time to read through Discord's Community Guidelines with your child. Find them at: <a href="http://www.discordapp.com/guidelines">www.discordapp.com/guidelines</a> 
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**7 TURN ON SAFE MESSAGING**  
 You should encourage your child to activate the 'Safe Direct Messaging' option. This will scan and delete any direct messages sent to your child containing explicit content.



**Meet our expert**  
 Claire Woffenden has been a technology journalist since 1998 with a specialism in consumer technology (apps, websites, home computing and digital devices). As a mum of two young children - aged 8 and 6 - Claire is passionate about helping to keep children safe online.

SOURCES: <https://support.discordapp.com/hc/en-us>, <http://www.gamesindustry.biz/news/13703/discord-drops-partnership-status-from-gamers-hosting-spot>, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/theresa-shawster/2019/01/29/discord-the-2-billion-gamer-paradise-caring-to-terms-with-data-theirs-child-groomers-and-the-investigators/#4a3d1d741>



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## Be Safe in the Sun

Its hotting up so we recommend that sun cream is applied to your child before school, and sun hats and a named water bottle are brought to school. Thank you.



Thank you in advance for your understanding as we continue to navigate the final weeks of the Summer term. We ask everyone to remain vigilant and to be very mindful of the need to maintain social distancing, wash hands and complete regular lateral flow testing.

## Sports Day

Today we were able to successfully hold our Sports Day for the children and remain in class bubbles. The sun shone and everyone had fun competing and taking part in the activities, whilst representing their house. Miss McCorkindale has been busy capturing many amazing photographs of the events today. I look forward to sharing more of these next week with you in our 'Sports Newsletter'.



So proud of Aimee (Year 5) as this perpetual award is such a wonderful achievement Well done Aimee!

## School Year: Term Dates & Holidays

### Summer Term 2021:

**Term ends on** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

**Summer Holidays** Monday 26th July -  
Monday 6th September 2021

### Autumn Term 2021:

**September Inset Days** Thursday 2nd &  
Friday 3rd September 2021

**First day of Term** Monday 6th September

**October half term** Monday 25th - 29th  
October 2021



**Finally.....**For the latest news and updates and to see more photos of our children learning, please follow us on twitter at: [@westmoors](https://twitter.com/@westmoors)



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