



# MALDON COURT

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Spring Term 2021

Weekly Newsletter

12th February 2021



## Headteacher's Award

Nursery	Archi Southgate
Pre-Reception	Thomas Harvey
Reception	Elodie Beckett Henry Allen
Form 1	Austin Procter
Form 2	Freya Driscoll
Form 3	David van Stolk
Form 4	India Fisher
Form 5	Darcy Ephgrave
Form 6	Lottie Craddock

Dear Parents,

Firstly, congratulations to everyone for completing this half term of remote learning. The children, staff and parents have all excelled themselves with the steadfast commitment that they have displayed over the past six weeks and I am truly grateful for the way in which the entire Maldon Court School community has pulled together again. We have all helped each other, supported each other and worked together to make the best of the situation that we found ourselves in. I couldn't be prouder of the wonderful school that we have. At Maldon Court, we always strive to reflect on our teaching practice and never more so than with this new remote learning. The staff are dynamic and are always wanting to improve to ensure that we always offer the absolute best for all of our children. It was with this in mind that we sent out the remote learning questionnaires this week. If you haven't already completed it, the deadline for Forms 1 - 6 is Monday and Reception is today. We have been overwhelmed with the wonderful comments that we have received. We will carefully analyse the data over half term and inform you of the results in due course.

The snow couldn't have come in a better week after the Children's Mental Health week. It has been so lovely to see the children out having fun in the snow. I have seen some fantastic pictures of the children making snowmen (I love that many of them had the MC scarf and hat on!), sledging and having snowball fights. It really is important that the children get to have a break from being on the computers and the snow was a perfect excuse! Our Dress to Express Day on Friday was very popular – there are some fantastic photos later in the newsletter.

Well done to Meghan Knight and Beatrice Cowell who received Good Manners Awards this week.

Finally, MCPS wishes Henry, George, Rose, Aliya and Jessica a very Happy Birthday.

I would like to wish you all a restful half term – enjoy the weather, recharge yourselves and I look forward to speaking to you all after half term. Mrs Mason

**NURSERY** - The Nursery children have had a lovely week. Our topic Chinese New Year has been a great hit with the children who have loved playing in the role play restaurant and exploring the Chinese inspired tuff tray. For a wonderful group activity, the children decorated a Chinese Dragon, which they danced with to Chinese music. We also had the excitement of the snow. The children were able to enjoy touching it, inside and outside and use lots of describing words; cold, icy, wet. After half term our topic is The Jungle and Rainforest, for optional homework please make a collage picture of your favourite jungle animal.

Mrs Kim Callaghan



**PRE-RECEPTION** - This week in Pre-Reception we have been focusing on the topic Chinese New Year. The children loved seeing the Chinese lanterns hanging in the classroom and listened to a story all about why people celebrate Chinese New Year. They looked at some Chinese writing to see how it is different to our and they also enjoyed painting their own initials using Chinese writing! In the classroom, we have transformed our home corner area into a Chinese restaurant. The children have loved lots of role-play looking at menus, writing out orders, and cooking and serving food to each other. Pre-Reception were also very excited to start the week with some wonderful snowy weather. We had lots of fun on the snow-covered playground, making snow angels, collecting icicles and building a little snowman called 'Mr Frost'.

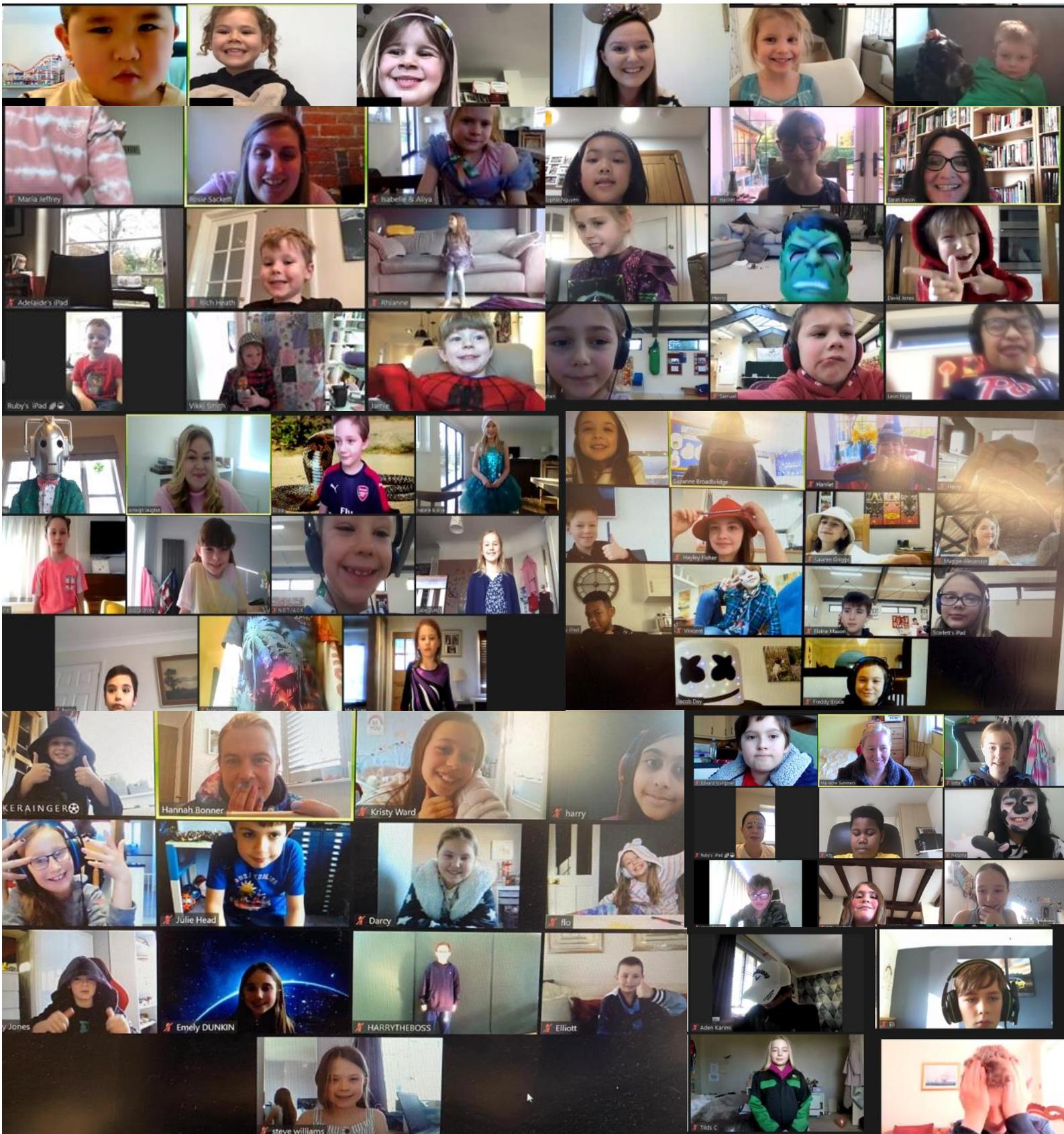
Our topic when we return will be 'We are all different'. For our optional home activity, can you create a 'Favourites Person'. Using an outline of a person, can you fill your person with all your interests and favourite things – get as creative as you can! Have a lovely half term.

Miss Washbourne and Miss Denyer



**DRESS TO EXPRESS** - Maldon Court have had lots of fun last week taking part in Children's Mental Health Week. It has been so encouraging to see so many of you taking part in the activities set to you by your teachers. We have seen some fantastic mood journals, gratitude jars and some very stretchy yoga moves! It was also amazing to see the turn out of our 'Dress to Express Day' on your zoom lessons. We have really enjoyed looking at all of the photos your class teachers have taken and it was really nice to see all of your smiley faces. Thank you to everybody who participated, we hope you had lots of fun!

Miss Vaughan and Miss Broadbridge



part of our Online Information Series

What you need to know about ...



# FAKE NEWS



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## WHAT IS FAKE NEWS

Parven Kaur, Kids N Clicks Founder

Fake news can be false information, photos or videos purposefully created to confuse or misinform. It can also be genuine information that has been manipulated to deceive. It is important that children learn how to distinguish between real news and fake news, so that they don't inadvertently share something which isn't true or believe something which could be misleading.



## KNOW THE RISKS

### SHOCK VALUE

Fake news can cause upset or shock to readers or viewers. Many fake news stories are written with appealing headlines and have content designed to create 'shock value', so the news spreads rapidly (common examples include the 'death' of a celebrity, company giveaways, news relating to supernatural events, or terror-related posts that provoke reactions).

### EMBARRASSMENT

Fake news is often deliberately created to misinform people – whether for fun, out of malice or to support an ideological or political agenda. As it's often difficult to tell the difference, young people can easily believe what they see and then share something which is a hoax or a joke, leading to embarrassment or ridicule.

### INFLUENCE BEHAVIOUR

Ultimately, fake news is designed to shape people's beliefs, thoughts and decisions: influencing them into believing something which has been misreported or which simply isn't true. This can shape how children think, behave or act in real life. It can especially affect their trust in the media or even in democracy itself.



## HOROSCOPES

New to page 18 ...  
Find out what's in your future!

## SPOT THE SIGNS

### CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Fake news stories can sometimes be identified simply because they are too ridiculous or outrageous to believe. Make sure that the website that published the story is a credible source, like a major news network or local paper which has the resources to fact-check published stories.

### CHECK THE URL

Does the website address at the top of the page look real? An easy way to spot suspect stories is if they're located on a news site with an odd domain name. So check the URL. Some shady websites try to incorporate a legitimate news source into their URL (such as www.therealbbc.co.uk) or will slightly misspell a popular domain name.

### VERIFY FACTS AND IMAGES

Authentic news is usually backed up by official data or surveys and previous, similar instances of the occurrence being reported. Similarly, fake news stories often include photos which have been manipulated. Perform a Google reverse image search to see if the picture has been stolen from another source and doctored.

### RESEARCH THE WEBSITE

Be wary when a big story comes from a news organisation that you've never heard of. Some hoaxers will quickly set up a website just to spread fake stories and so-called 'breaking news'. Use the internet archive to research how long a site has been running – and check if the same story is being reported by more credible news outlets.

## FURTHER SUPPORT

### REPORT THE CONTENT

Google and many social media platforms now have dedicated methods for fake news stories to be reported to them. This can range from sending a feedback message to Google via the page itself to the 'Report Post' buttons on Facebook and Twitter.

### PROVIDE REASSURANCE

If your child feels as though they have been negatively impacted by a fake news story, or has suffered some form of embarrassment because of fake news, it's important to be supportive and reassuring. Discuss with them how not everything that's posted online is true.

### IMPROVE THEIR DIGITAL LITERACY

If your child has been tricked by a fake news story, try to encourage them to think more rationally about what they see and hear on the internet. Advise them to question the motivation behind a story – such as why it's been written, and if it's trying to make them form a specific opinion or influence their actions.

## OUR EXPERT



Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

## ARE ALIENS HARVESTING OUR WIFI?!



Supposed footage of alien craft

Our groundbreaking expose on page 4 ...

