



MALDON COURT

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Spring Term 2021

Weekly Newsletter

22nd January 2021



Dear Parents,

I sincerely hope that you and your families have been keeping well over the past few weeks. Without the children from the main school being here the school is sadly quiet, but I have the privilege of being able to see the progress being made every day and in every class. The children, parents and staff should be proud of the work they are putting in, this is not easy and I must say it is truly impressive to see how engaged the children are with their online learning. Please keep up the good work and contact us whenever you need us. We are looking forward to having all the children back as soon as we possibly can and we will hit the ground running, there is so much to look forward to. I would like to thank you all for your support in keeping your children at home wherever possible as this has enabled the teachers to solely focus on providing the excellent online learning platform for all of the children. The teachers work so hard on this and all of your positive comments really do mean so much. Thank you.

Although we are only permitted to have our Nursery and Pre-Reception in school at the moment, I thought it would be nice to produce a short newsletter to keep you updated with everything that is going on at home and at school.

We are determined to keep our positive behaviour awards going, as we did in our previous lockdown, and therefore the Headteacher and Good Manner Awards will continue.

The mental and emotional well-being of our families and children is of utmost importance to us. You will be aware that we send you weekly wellbeing updates and leaflets which we hope you may find helpful. We have also started individual wellbeing checks by phone. It has most certainly brightened our day when we speak to you.

Welcome to Gabriella Mazhawidza who started in Nursery One, we know you will be warmly welcomed into to the Maldon Court Family.

Thank you for sending in photos of the children participating in the fitness videos, or working at home. We still need more of your contributions in order to compile our whole school video so please email your videos or photos to the school office. It is fantastic for the children to see all of their friends.

Finally, MCPS Wishes Lucia Cole and Evie Beckett a very Happy Birthday!
Have a lovely weekend - Mrs Mason

Headteacher's Award

Nursery	Lucia Cole
Pre-Reception	Rose Galpin
Reception	Olivia Dunkin
Form 1	Aliya Procter
Form 2	Harriet Hawes
Form 3	Sofia Fisher
Form 4	Jacob Tsai
Form 5	Jake Rainger
Form 6	Ruby Procter

NURSERY - The Nursery children have really enjoyed our topics so far this term. We started January with the topic Winter and Colours and the weather did not disappoint as it was so cold! We were able to explore the outside area and discuss the temperature and the change in the season. The children loved our colour mixing activity and were fascinated as they mixed the paints, watching as the two colours combined make a new colour. This week our topic was Up in the Air. The children discussed animals and vehicles that use the skies. We also sang our favourite song, 'We all have our Favourite Balloons' and alongside this, enjoyed a balloon colour matching and number activity. The children took part in the RSPB Garden Birdwatch, they loved walking around the school to see if they could spot the birds on our check list. Next week, our topic is Expressive Arts Week, for optional homework please encourage your child to paint or create a picture that represents themselves.

Mrs Kim Callaghan



PRE-RECEPTION - Pre-Reception have had lots of fun exploring our first topics of spring term over the past weeks. We started with the topic Winter and the children loved taking part in lots of activities. We began with painting some penguins, sticking 2D shape snowmen, cutting out mittens, and decorating some paper doily snowflakes. These all look wonderful on our classroom winter display. The children also thoroughly enjoyed some science with an ice experiment. We filled up the ice trays with water and put them in the freezer. We discussed as a group about the change from liquid to solid and the ways in which we could freeze the ice and then make it melt. The children chose a few places to put the ice including outside, in the freezer and on the heater. Over the day, we had lots of fun checking on the ice and seeing which ice melted the fastest and which melted the slowest. After many observations, the children decided that the heater melted the ice the fastest and the freezer the slowest – well done Pre-Reception.

Our topic this week is 'The Rainbow Fish'. We have started the week by visiting the school library to read the story and discuss what happened. We spoke about sharing with others and how that made the fish feel and how it could make us feel. The children also enjoyed an under the sea number tuff tray, where they enjoyed looking at all the animals, numbers and answering lots of open-ended questions related to the tray.

Our optional home activity for this topic is a Rainbow Fish collage. We would love to see a photograph of you creating a colourful fish using a variety of materials!

Miss Washbourne and Miss Denyer



Over the past few weeks Mrs Wilkins has been continuing to talk with the children to discuss how they may be feeling during lockdown and providing some helpful tips while they are away from school and their friends. If you do have any concerns about wellbeing please email Mrs Wilkins at: jeni.wilkins@maldoncourschool.org or your child's teacher. Below are some useful website links that you may find helpful.

www.time-to-change.org.uk www.youngminds.org.uk www.childline.org.uk
<https://www.annafreud.org/parents-and-carers/> <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>



You will need:



There are lots of things that we haven't been able to do due to coronavirus – see friends, hug a grandparent, go shopping or visit a favourite café.

Use our activities to encourage your child to accept and let go of the things they missed out on due to the lockdown, and to look forward to things they can do in the future.

Things I've missed out on - Letting go

Talk to your child about things they couldn't do during lockdown. They can write or draw each item on a small piece of paper. Ask them how they feel about each thing they've missed. We can't change this situation, so we need to accept that those events are gone for ever. One by one, scrunch up the pieces of paper and throw them away, letting them go for good.



Things I am looking forward to - Future plans

Encourage children to make a list or draw pictures of things they are looking forward to doing in the near future. Stick this on the fridge to remind them of good things coming up. They can add new things at any time.



Please see below some links regarding Online safety. If you are concerned about your child or need advice, please email Office@maldoncourtschool.org where we will be happy to support you in any way that we can.



DfE KCSiE Remote Safeguarding Guidance: Online Safety for Children and Parents

Support for children and young people:

Childline - for support
<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

UK Safer Internet Centre - for advice on making a report about online abuse
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/our-helplines>

CEOP - to report and remove harmful online content
<https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/>

Support for responsible adults:

National Online Safety – for comprehensive support for teachers, parents and responsible adults
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
<https://www.internetmatters.org/about-us/>

London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
<https://www.lgfl.net/about/>

Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/>

Parent Info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
<https://parentinfo.org/page/about-us>

Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/our-helplines>

