



# Ark Brunel Primary Academy Newsletter

8th July 2022

Our  
**Heart**  
Values



*Honesty*



*Enthusiasm*



*Ambition*



*Resilience*



*Thought*

## Dear Ark Brunel Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and safe from the blazing heat outside. It has been another action-packed week here with performance practices, school trips and parent events all going on as usual.

We were very fortunate to have a special guest in Nursery this week telling the children all about Eid and sharing some goodies too. We thoroughly enjoy working alongside our families and this was another great example of that solid bond that we share between school and home. You can read more about it on the nursery newsletter. If you're celebrating Eid this weekend, we hope you have a super time.

In addition to the above, we also hosted our final Parent View session of the academic calendar. This time, I spoke about my first 100 days, your feedback during the Ofsted survey and my vision for improvement going forward. If you're interested in knowing more, please speak with some of our Parent View members or register your interest in the next event (Autumn term). I would love to have one parent from each class so if you would like to support the academy improve, please do come along.

Unfortunately, we could not all come together on Monday for our weekly RRSA assembly but the children are aware that this week's RRSA Article of the Week is Article 24 (health and health services) and Article 33 (drug abuse). We learnt that governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy; and governments must protect children from the illegal use of drugs and from being involved in the production or distribution of drugs. As always, do talk with your children to find out more about their activities and learning.

Finally, I wish you all an enjoyable weekend. Remember, Sports Day is looming – it's time to get practicing!

Mr Scott

# Family Group

FAMILY GROUP wished Robel and Charlie every success after their graduation from the group. Along with their Mums, Mark Griffiths, Michael Clegg-Butt and the other current families, Robel and Charlie's progress over the last year was celebrated. We are all so proud of them and their wonderful Mums. They have been such committed, supportive, and fun members of the group and they will be missed.

We have space available within the group to help another family. If you are interested in finding out more about FAMILY GROUP, please contact Mark at [mark@theschoolandfamilyworks.co.uk](mailto:mark@theschoolandfamilyworks.co.uk)



## USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY PUPILS

We have had several instances recently of pupils using social media inappropriately. We have addressed these issues in school and will continue to address these with our community to educate children about the consequences of their actions online. However, we do need parental support in ensuring that children do not use social media at home. **We remind parents that primary age children should not be using a majority, if not all, of social media apps including, TikTok and Discord.** Please ensure that your child is behaving safely and respectfully whilst online. Parents should feel reassured that all internet use on school devices is monitored carefully.





**This week's Value Certificates go to:**

BUSS	Cole, Nadiya
CARPENTER	Affan, Abdulrahman
CAXTON	Nasir, Sean
DARWIN	Jazmin, Adam
DICKENS	Leela-Anne, Rayyan D.
FARADAY	Chase, Elisa
FRY	Lacey-May, Louise
JENNER	Teme, Alaya
JOHNSON	Karim, Kyrese
NEWTON	Zakariya, Elijah
PANKHURST	Sophia, Gabriela
SHACKLETON	Millie, Mohamed
WILBERFORCE	Khalifa, Sarah
WOLLSTONECRAFT	Louie, Haythem

**This week's Mathletes are:**

DARWIN	Rafael
DICKENS	Kawthar
FARADAY	Rayan
FRY	Malak
JENNER	Luke
JOHNSON	Malik
PANKHURST	Jordan
SHACKLETON	Maliq
WILBERFORCE	Maxim
WOLLSTONECRAFT	Alessia

Congratulations to this week's winning Class:  
**Seacole**  
 Total School Points: 13,940  
**Which class will win next week?**

Overall attendance for last week was 91.74%. Please help us to improve this low level by making sure that your child comes to school EVERY day – we are aiming to reach 96% attendance and can only achieve this if you support us.

Buss	91.2%
Carpenter	92.9%
Caxton	89.3%
Darwin	96.5%
Dickens	95.7%
Faraday	96.5%
Fry	80.4%
Jenner	95.7%
Johnson	94.2%
Newton	90%
Pankhurst	85%
Seacole	90.3%
Shackleton	94.4%
Wilberforce	86.5%
Wollstonecraft	97.6%



**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Y2 Fry class visiting Pizza Express
- Nursery to Kensington Gardens
- Y5 & Y6 Parents invited to view RSE content, 3:45pm

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July:**

- EYFS Sports Day, 9:30am
- Y6 End of Year Performance, 2:15pm
- Y6 End of Year Performance, 7pm

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Domino Day (class transition for Y1-Y5)
- Greek Day
- Y2 End of Year Performance, 2pm

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Y5 visiting the Natural History Museum
- Skipping Workshop (Y2, Y3 & Y4)
- Reception Graduation, 2:15pm

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Reception visiting Holland Park
- KS1 Sports Day, 9:15am

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Y6 Leavers Lunch

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July:**

- KS2 Sports Day, 9:15am

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July:**

- Last day of term

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING

13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

### DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

### ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

### CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

### EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

### SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content; a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

### MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

### DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

### HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

## Meet Our Expert

Coral Clippis is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at [grnw3.com](http://grnw3.com), a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday