

Head teacher's note

Thank you so much to the Friends of Fishergate for organising such a fabulous event. The quiz night was such good fun and it was brilliant to see such a good turn-out. The hall was almost full to bursting. My favourite thing was saying hello to all of our 'old' children who joined us - it was lovely to have them back! I would also like to say thank you to all of the families who worked so hard to make the delicious food. We had Japanese chocolate Taiyaki, Chinese beef and celery dumplings, Yangnyeon chicken, Bhutanese chow mein, Chinese style burgers and Pakistan vegetable pakoras to name but a few of the dishes. We are very lucky to be part of such a multi-cultural school community.

Wishing you all a happy and sun-filled weekend!

Friends of Fishergate

Bake sale & Uniform Stall on Monday

Our first summer term bake sale is being hosted by our brilliant Year 5/6's. Be sure to stop by and treat yourself to something sweet after school on Monday. Nut-free items are sold at 50p each. Year 5 & 6 parents: can you help run the stall? Let us know at friendsoffishergateschool@gmail.com.

** Pre-loved uniforms will also be available, free of cost! ** Do it for the environment, do it because children grow so quickly, but be sure to bring a bag and just do it! Items are sorted by age and we have plenty to look through.

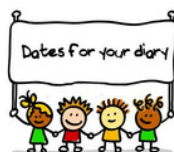
Family Quiz Night

The reviews are in: the food tasted just as incredible as it looked, the speed in SpeedQuizzing is no joke and our school knows how to have a good time! It was absolutely lovely to watch as the fabulous team of parent cooks made their final preparations for this event. Thank you to the cooks, to Tom from Trig Brewery, the lovely man behind the tap who generously donated the beer, and to our dedicated team of helpers who made this event possible. We're still counting mountains of coins, but it looks like we raised over £600, a phenomenal amount!

Dates

Fri 1st - Over and Above treat

Mon 4th - Bank Holiday - school closed



Phase group updates

Early Years - We've had a fantastic week at school! The children have shown great attentiveness and kindness in welcoming our new nursery starters, helping them settle in beautifully. We've also made the most of the lovely weather, enjoying lots of creative outdoor play. This week in Drawing Club, we have talked about our own experiences of going on trips with loved ones - we have also been making the most of the sunshine with creative and imaginative play in the forest. The children have been busy in the mud kitchen, inventing their own dishes, as well as exploring new areas and finding trees to climb. In Maths this week, we have been comparing 2D and 3D shapes. The children have really expanded their vocabulary, confidently identifying shapes such as cuboids and spheres. Well done, everyone!

Year 1/2 - The children have been loving their new 'Great Fire of London' topic, with Year 2 learning to write a set of instructions about how to respond to a fire alarm and Year 1 innovating their fairy stories from last week. In Maths, Year 2 have been continuing their work on time, learning to tell the time to 5 minute intervals, whilst Year 1 have been beginning to learn about teen numbers. On Friday, we'll also be enjoying a music workshop led by the MEG music group from the University of York.

Year 3/4 - In Yr 3/4, we have been learning all about the Water Cycle-look out for homework on this theme. In English, the children have written their superb persuasive letters from the Spider to the Fly, using flattery, exaggeration, rhetorical questions and descriptive language. Yr4's in maths are telling the time to the nearest minute (any help at home with this life skill would be greatly appreciated) and the Yr3 group have been adding and subtracting fractions.

Year 5/6 - Children are enjoying our RSHE lessons, where they can openly learn about and discuss changes in puberty and relationships. We are really proud of how they behave and how positively they approach these lessons. In English, the children are writing their own stories, something they always love. In Maths, Year 6 are developing their understanding of angles and Year 5 are calculating percentages.



Bodhi Corner

Hi everyone, it's me, Bodhi!

This week I got to listen to my first person reading in school – it was amazing! I was really impressed by how confident they were and how they could read all of the words so smoothly. I think I got a bit carried away with excitement... I might have left a little bit of slobber on the book (sorry about that!). But I just couldn't help myself – it was such a good story!

I think I might be a bit better at finding tennis balls than I am at being still and listening to a story... but I will practise!



OPAL

This week's Golden Welly winner is Abigail - just look how much fun she is having in the mud kitchen!

Wheels have gone down very well - so well that we are making another area which means we will be able to have the slower 'vehicles' in a different space. Hopefully this will prevent the M25 style traffic jams!

Speaking of wheels please could you make sure that you aren't allowing your child to play on them before or after school. Thank you very much.



50 THINGS TO DO

150 things to do before you're 11 and 3/4
Give your children a challenge over the summer! The National Trust are running their award winning campaign '50 things to do before you're 11 ¾'.

From climbing a tree to tracking wild animals, the list is great fun and will be sure to capture the imaginations of your children and inspire them to venture into the great outdoors.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/50-things>



We created our '50 things' list to encourage families to play in nature together and build an enduring connection with the natural world. We want kids to explore their senses in the wild, care for plants and creatures, and reflect on their feelings in different landscapes.

It's not just a case of getting outdoors or learning the names of different birds – we want children to really explore the hooks, nooks and knobbles of nature in all different seasons, and build memories and experiences to last. Research tells us these experiences of connecting with nature boost children's physical, social and mental development.

And it's lots of fun too.

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

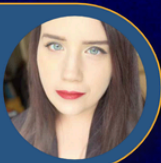
The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that 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 Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at gmw3.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

Sources: <https://www.defendyoungminds.com/post/dangers-of-discord-6-steps-safeguarding-teens-on-popular-chat-app/> | <https://support.discord.com> | <https://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/discord-is-a-haven-for-gamers-and-sexual-exploiters/> | <https://kotaku.com/discord-deleted-thousands-of-violent-extremist-and-crim-1846623284>