

# ***MEA Community News***

## **Keeping us connected during the Academy closure**

10 July 2020

Welcome to the final edition of our parent newsletter **MEA Community News** where we have been keeping you up to date with important information in relation to the Academy and your child's education as well as providing other articles and tips we hoped you would find interesting during lockdown.

We hope you keep safe & stay well over the summer – **Ms Bradbury & the MEA Team**

### **MEA Summer 'Catch Up Curriculum'**

In order to support students who wish to consolidate their learning over the summer holidays, we have produced an MEA Catch Up Curriculum for students to work through, at their own pace, should they wish.

The Catch Up Curriculum will be released weekly via MS Teams and consists of one piece of work per subject for each year group. Students can do as much, or as little, of this curriculum as they wish and can complete the activities in any order. The activities are designed to be stand alone, and do not need to be returned to the Academy or to teachers. During the summer holidays students will be able to view and download the Catch Up Curriculum via their Teams account, but the **chat facility to contact staff will be disabled until September.**



Any engagement with the Summer Catch Up Curriculum will support students with a return to formal learning in September but **please do not worry if your child does not complete this**, it is optional and we will work with students to identify and close any gaps in learning once we return in September.

### **Health & Wellbeing**

Children's **separation anxiety** has naturally been affected by lockdown, **Winston's Wish** has found that parents have told them that children are either more anxious or their anxiety has calmed dependent on circumstances they have experienced during lockdown.

If your child has become more clingy since going into lockdown or if you are worried about your child's separation anxiety resurfacing once they return to school and 'normal life', this blog from Winston's Wish has some suggestions how to help your child, especially if they have experienced a bereavement.

## MEA Loves Reading



**Reading for pleasure** has been shown to have many benefits for young people, not just increasing their literacy skills and vocabulary but also improving wellbeing and increasing social awareness.

During the summer holidays we recommend that all students spend some time reading books or texts that they enjoy.

Visit the *MEA Loves Reading* section of our website for links to books and comics available free online, as well some suggestions from MEA staff and World Book Day of favourite books for young people.



## National Reading Together Day

Families across the country are invited to take part in the celebration of reading together on **16 July** as part of the **Reading Together Day**, coordinated by The Reading Agency. The aim of the Reading Together Day is to bring families, friends, schools and wider communities together - starting conversations, sharing stories, making connections, celebrating reading and having fun.

People of all ages are invited to take part in sharing the love of reading for pleasure, to help build skills, increase confidence, support educational attainment and improve wellbeing.

For more details, including the schedule of coordinated events and ambassadors taking part in the day follow the hashtag #ReadingTogether

## Forum Library



The library in Wythenshawe is now open **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 11am - 3pm.**

Users will be allowed a window of up to 30 minutes to browse for books, or can select and reserve up to six books at a time for collection in advance by using the Libraries' online catalogue.

A limited number of computers will also be available for use by the public at each site. Due to limited availability, people wishing to visit the library to use a computer are encouraged to call in advance and book their slot – Tel: 0161 227 3768



## Love Wythenshawe

Love Wythenshawe is a project set up to help families around Wythenshawe, they can help with any of the below, completely free:

- Deliveries of free cooked meals or packed lunches
- Gardening/garden tidying
- Rubbish/furniture collection
- Arts and crafts projects for children

If you would like any more info then please get in touch with John on [info@message.org.uk](mailto:info@message.org.uk) with your name, a contact number and which of the service(s) would be helpful to you. You can also call or text on 07581706032.

## Parent Zone



If you've not already done so, sign up to **Parent Zone** and you'll receive a fortnightly bulletin over the summer with lots of activities, challenges and tips on all things digital.

Details of how to sign up can be found on our website in the *Online Safety* section under *Digital Schools Membership*.



**TikTok** has quickly become one of the most popular social media apps, especially with young people. The app allows users to create and watch small video clips. TikTok has a wide range of content and can be used for many purposes including watching tutorials, gaming and responding to current events.

As with all social media, if your child is using TikTok it is important they are aware of the risks they could encounter and how to respond:

- Remind your child to be mindful of what they share and who they share it with
- Encourage your child to think critically about the things they see in their feed
- Reassure your child if they have any questions or an uncomfortable experience, they can come to you for support
- Make sure your child knows how to report videos or users if they stumble across inappropriate content and how to block users who are bothering them

For more information, including about privacy controls, please visit the *Online Safety* section of our website, where you will also find other guides and advice to keep your child safe online.

## MEA Xtras @ Home

Are you missing **Wimbledon** this summer? If so, outdoor tennis courts are now open across Manchester Parks, including **Wythenshawe Park**, and can be used for free – so why not have a go yourself!



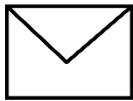


**The Wildfowl and Wetland Trust's** home learning and family fun webpage has a large range of activities aimed at inspiring children to connect with the natural world and designed to be dipped into at any time.

From learning sessions exploring the food chain or plastic pollution to fun activities for all the family including colouring sheets and scavenger hunts.

<https://www.wwt.org.uk/discover-wetlands/home-learning-and-family-fun#>

### Keep in Touch



If you have a recipe suggestion, book recommendation or an activity you've enjoyed whilst at home, e-mail the details to [admin@meacad.org.uk](mailto:admin@meacad.org.uk) so we can share what you have all enjoyed doing over the summer break!



**Safe 4 Summer** is an annual partnership campaign, which takes place over the summer months – involving Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS), Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), local councils and other organisations – with the ultimate aim to keep the young people safe and provide information to their parents and carers.

This year there will be three main objectives:

- Keep our communities, including young people, safe around water and educate them about water safety
- Reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour, including deliberate fires started by young people, attacks on firefighters and hoax 999 calls
- Help to make the roads of Greater Manchester safer by educating people of the dangers

Safe 4 Summer wants to know how much children have learnt about keeping safe this summer and have launched an interactive quiz with a chance to win an iPad. The prize draw is open to everyone who lives in Greater Manchester aged 5-16 years. If children are 12 or under, they will need to ask a parent or guardian to fill out the answers for them. The closing date for entries is the 31st August.

More information about the campaign, details for entering the prize draw and other Safe 4 Summer activities can be found on the GMFRS website:

<https://www.manchesterfire.gov.uk/staying-safe/safe4summer/>

