Marldon C of E Primary School

'Within the love of God, working together, growing together, for all to flourish.'

As we come to the end of another wonderful school year, we can look back with enormous pride on all that our children have achieved. From exciting educational visits and residential experiences to sporting competitions, performances, workshops and visitors to school, every child has had the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom. These experiences have enriched our curriculum, built confidence and created lasting memories, while the progress our pupils have made across every area of learning is something to celebrate. Their enthusiasm, resilience and determination have been a credit to themselves, their families and our school community.

Yesterday, we were delighted to celebrate our Stars of the Year—children who have been recognised for exceptional achievements and contributions. However, as I shared with the children, every single pupil deserves to be recognised as a star on their own journey. Success looks different for every child, whether it has been learning something new, overcoming a challenge, showing kindness, developing confidence or persevering when things felt difficult. We are incredibly proud of every member of our school family and thank our children, staff and parents for making this such a successful and memorable year. We wish everyone a happy, restful summer and look forward to another exciting year together in September.

Thank you:

As another successful school year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff team. Their unwavering dedication, professionalism and genuine care for every child make Marldon such a special place to learn and grow. Whether in the classroom, around the school site or behind the scenes, every member of staff goes above and beyond each day to provide the very best opportunities for our children. Their commitment has enabled our pupils to flourish academically, socially and emotionally, and I am immensely grateful for everything they have contributed throughout the year.

This year also brings a fond farewell to Mrs Tovagliari as she embarks on the next chapter of her journey. On behalf of our whole school community, I would like to thank her for the care, commitment and kindness she has shown during her time at Marldon. She has played an important role in supporting so many children to grow in confidence, develop their potential and truly flourish. While we will miss her greatly, we know she will be a wonderful asset wherever her journey takes her next. We wish Mrs Tovagliari every happiness and success for the future and thank her for the lasting difference she has made to the lives of so many children and families at Marldon.

Online Safety:

School's out … for summer! Yes, it's that time of the year again: around six weeks at home for ecstatic youngsters. For many young people, a bumper stint off school means a welcome chance to spend even more time with their games console, phone, tablet or smart TV. So whether your children are likely to be scrolling on Snapchat, nestling in front of Netflix or frying foes on Fortnite, we've put together some top tips to help you keep them safe online this holiday.

In the guide, you'll find tips such as setting a screen time limit, setting a good example and limit social audiences.

Year 6:

Today, we said a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 6 in a truly memorable Leavers' Service. It was a joyful celebration of all they hve achieved during their time at Marldon, filled with laughter, reflection and gratitude. The children led the service with confidence and heart, sharing stories, memories and some of the favourite school dinners they have enjoyed over the years—a wonderful reminder of the many special moments that have shaped their journey.

As they now take their next steps, we wish each and every one of our Year 6 children every success and happiness for the future. Go forward with confidence, courage and kindness, knowing that you will always be part of the Marldon family. We are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved and cannot wait to hear about all that you go on to accomplish. Good luck, Year 6—you will always have a special place in our hearts

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE OVER SUMMER

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THERE'S NO NETWORK LIKE HOME

Teenagers, especially, tend to be delighted to find that a coffee shop, restaurant or shopping centre offers free WiFi. These public networks are much less secure than home WiFi, though, so discourage your child from making online purchases or entering personal details when out and about.

IT'S 'THE GREAT OUTDOORS' FOR A REASON

For most northern hemisphere-dwellers, this time of year is a rare opportunity to enjoy the outside world in pleasant weather. Remind your child how amazing it is to feel the sun on their back and fresh air in their lungs. Disney+ and Minecraft will still be there on drizzly Sundays in October.

PRIVATE INFO STAYS PRIVATE

It's worth checking your child's social media or gaming profiles occasionally to make sure they aren't inadvertently giving away too much information. Details such as their full name, address or where they go to school could all be used to track them down by individuals with sinister intentions.

KEEP TALKING

It sounds blindingly obvious, but having regular chats with your child about who they're talking to online, what games and apps they're using and what shows they're streaming is a huge benefit. It doesn't have to be every day or even every week, but it can signal potential issues well in advance.

LIGHTS OUT, SCREENS OFF

This is a golden rule: try to limit how much screen time your child has towards end of the day. Staring at the screen of a phone or tablet for too long before bed severely impacts a child's quality of sleep – which can play havoc with their concentration, mood and energy levels the next day.

FOCUS ON FACTS

The internet is phenomenal at spreading gossip. When children of certain ages aren't in daily contact at school, the digital rumour mill can go into overdrive. Remind your child not to believe everything they're told online – especially if the person involved isn't around to provide their side of the story.

WATCH FOR EXCESSIVE GAMING

With no school, children often take every opportunity to fit in 'just one more go' on their favourite game – sometimes at the cost of their daily routine, or having family time. A little extra gaming is to be expected in the holidays, but if could become problematic if it evolves into a recurring habit.

LIMIT SOCIAL AUDIENCES

When they're old enough, young people love to broadcast their summer holiday highlights all over social media. The unfortunate truth, however, is that we don't always know who might be viewing this content. Check the settings to ensure that only friends and family can see your child's posts.

DEMONSTRATE GOOD HABITS

Children often learn their digital behaviour from watching the grown-ups around them. So make sure your child observes you being positive and supportive on social media, for example – and, especially, sees that you know when it's time to switch the screen off, even though you're having fun.

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ARTICLE 28 - Every child has the right to an education