



## Week Gone/Week Ahead - 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019 Centre Academy London

Dear Parents/Carers/Students and Staff

The weather has turned cold this week, so please remember that warmer coats will be needed to ensure protection against the chill! In preparation for the winter, we also now have a revised date for the flu vaccinations; which will take place next Friday.

Also coming up next week is our first Parent/Carer Event of the academic year. This will be an informal meet and greet coffee afternoon. As part of this we would welcome feedback on events that you would like us to include in this year's programme.

Finally, this week, I would like to mention online safety. I know this is a complex issue and I am aware that many of our students are active on social media. While many parents/carers may be familiar with different social media platforms, one that is less well known is called Discord. This started as a communication tool within the gamer community and users can join groups; share texts, pictures and videos; as well as live chat with each other. Just like other social media platforms it is important that students do not share personal information and we would like to remind parents that monitoring student activity – especially on social media – is strongly advised. More information on Discord is included over the page.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,  
Miss Maddison

### **Online Safety**

I would like to remind parents that we work in collaboration with National Online Safety. Information about potential online dangers and support for how to protect your child is available through:

<https://lms.nationalonlinesafety.com/school/CentreAcademyLondon>

You will need to complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer"

### **Upcoming Dates**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019:  
Parent/Carer Coffee Afternoon

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019:  
Flu Vaccinations administered

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
2019:  
Half Term

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019:  
Last Day of Term

The house with the most points this week is:

# **Effra**

Congratulations to them for winning and well done to all students for their hard work over the week.



With over 14 million daily users, Discord is one of the most popular communication tools for gamers. It allows you to create or join what are known as 'servers', where different users can talk in groups via text message or voice call. There is also the option to send direct messages and make video calls.



# What parents need to know about DISCORD



<p><b>INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT</b></p> <p>Your child can access almost any chat server on Discord. This means they can easily be exposed to content and conversations that are inappropriate, upsetting or potentially harmful.</p> 	<p><b>SEXUAL IMAGERY</b></p> <p>Despite there being guidelines in place to prevent it, users are able to circulate adult content. This can include sexualised images, pornographic videos and provocative discussions. It's important to stay alert and know the risks that your child could be exposed to.</p> 	<p><b>RISK OF CYBERBULLYING</b></p> <p>Interactions on the platform are largely unregulated. This means other users can easily say and show things to your child that might be offensive and upsetting. The competitive nature of gaming can lead users to make abusive and harmful remarks about your child.</p> 	<p><b>HIDDEN CHARGES</b></p> <p>Though the basic platform is free, your child will be encouraged to sign up to premium subscriptions, which give extra perks, such as animated emojis and free games. The two options are known as 'Nitro Classic' (which costs \$4.99 a month) and Nitro (which costs \$9.99 a month). Prices are only converted to pound sterling during the payment process.</p> 	<p><b>RISK OF CYBERCRIME</b></p> <p>Cybercriminal groups have been linked to the platform due to reports of hackers sharing stolen data. It's also possible that your child may be encouraged to share the data of their friends, either through peer pressure, or 'for fun', without realising the consequences.</p> 	<p><b>STRANGER DANGER</b></p> <p>To create an account, you only need to display a username and profile image. This makes it easy for someone to hide his or her real identity. Predators from anywhere in the world can join a chat server, message your child and quickly leave to avoid detection. Forbes reports groomers have been targeting children susceptible to online coercion on the platform.</p> 
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## Top Tips to Protect Your Child



<p><b>1 BEWARE OF WHAT'S SHARED</b></p> <p>Whatever your child says or shares on the platform can be seen, heard and shared with a much larger audience. Be careful to make sure your child understands this and does not say or share anything that could be deemed offensive, harmful or put themselves or others at risk.</p> <p>You can find Discord's own guide for parents here: <a href="https://blog.discordapp.com/parents-guide-to-discord-c77d91793e9c">https://blog.discordapp.com/parents-guide-to-discord-c77d91793e9c</a></p> 	<p><b>2 IMPROVE SECURITY SETTINGS</b></p> <p>To help protect your child, make sure they set strong passwords. You should consider using the 'two-factor authentication' function for extra protection. It's also important to remind your child to never to share their personal information, or the details of another user.</p> 	<p><b>3 CHECK THEIR FRIEND LIST</b></p> <p>You can restrict who is able to make 'friend requests' to your child in the 'Friends' tab. It's a good idea to deselect the default option that allows anyone to connect. Of course, you should also talk to your child about why it's a risk to allow strangers to connect with them through such platforms.</p> 	<p><b>4 REPORT &amp; BLOCK SUSPICIOUS USERS</b></p> <p>Make sure your child knows how to report and block abusive or suspicious users. If you do find your child suffering repeated abuse, contact the platform directly using the email: <a href="mailto:abuse@discordapp.com">abuse@discordapp.com</a>. It's a good idea to teach your child how to screenshot any negative interactions too.</p> 	<p><b>5 BEWARE OF NSFW CONTENT</b></p> <p>Public forums on the platform are a potential venue for inappropriate content that you should be wary of. There is a Discord mascot known as 'Wumpus', which is supposed to represent anyone under 18. Anyone who posts content unsuitable for under-18s, should mark it NSFW (Not Suitable For Wumpus).</p> 	<p><b>6 SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS</b></p> <p>It's important you actively teach your child to treat other users with respect and behave online the same way as they would offline.</p> <p>Take the time to read through Discord's Community Guidelines with your child. Find them at: <a href="http://www.discordapp.com/guidelines">www.discordapp.com/guidelines</a></p> 
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**7 TURN ON SAFE MESSAGING**

You should encourage your child to activate the 'Safe Direct Messaging' option. This will scan and delete any direct messages sent to your child containing explicit content.




**Meet our expert**

Claire Woffenden has been a technology journalist since 1998 with a specialism in consumer technology (apps, websites, home computing and digital devices). As a Mum of two young children - aged 8 and 6 - Claire is passionate about helping to keep children safe online.

SOURCES: <https://support.discordapp.com/hc/en-us>, <https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2017/03/discord-has-a-child-porn-problem/>, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-4559008/Half-youngsters-experience-bullying-online-games.html>, <https://www.pcgamesinsider.biz/news/67503/discord-drops-partnership-status-from-servers-hosting-porn/>, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2019/01/29/discord-the-2-billion-gamers-paradise-coming-to-terms-with-data-thieves-child-groomers-and-fbi-investigators/#4fba3ddf3741>