

Thursday 23rd November

Incident requiring a police response at West Moors Middle School

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I spoke to all the children today before they left school to reassure them in relation to a matter that was fast becoming the talk of the playground.

Whilst on lunchtime duty today, some Y5 pupils spoke to me to suggest that a local resident had pointed a gun at them whilst they were retrieving a ball that had gone into a nearby drive. After speaking to a number of pupils and reading statements, I phoned Dorset Police who responded quickly and in a supportive manner.

The Dorset tactical firearms unit spoke to a local resident who was **very** cooperative. A search of the premises was carried out and no gun was found. However, a litter picker matching the descriptions given by pupils was located. The view of Dorset police was that this was a case of mistaken identity.

Dorset Police were keen to stress that the children had done the right thing in speaking to their Headteacher about their concerns and that the school had also acted in an appropriate manner. I have also spoke to the local resident to give an account of our actions and express regret for any upheaval caused.

In future, any balls licked over the fence at break times will remain there, pending an adult retrieving them at an appropriate time.

Thanks for your understanding on this matter

Yours faithfully



James Rielly