



Parents' Weekly Newsletter

'Thriving to achieve our best - together'

Friday 25th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring is definitely here! After a lovely week of sunshine, our children have enjoyed playing outdoors with their friends. Between outdoor PE with hockey and after school sports clubs, Forest School and a Book Bash event organised by our prefects, it has been non-stop! We also continued to sell cakes to raise money to support families in Ukraine and are proud to share that a total of £291.66 was raised at this fund-raising event. With donations for Red Nose Day (£80.07), also going to help the Ukraine Crisis Appeal, this means that together a total £371.73 was raised, along with shoe boxes with gifted items kindly being donated which will help to make a difference to so many families from Ukraine in need of support and care. Thank you for all your support that made this possible.

Well done to our Eco Team, Ms Willis and Mrs Creighton who have weeded and prepared the polytunnel and raised beds. They have already started planting seeds for this year's harvest, including cabbages and strawberries. With a plant watering rota well underway, and many more seeds to plant, we will watch this space!

Lastly, we are incredibly proud of our Year 8 prefects who planned and led a Book Bash event this afternoon. At this event, every tutor group had a stall with an activity, game, cake or book sale, creating an opportunity for the whole school community to come together. The Year 8 leaders then double counted monies from each stall, raising a total of £147.10! With Year 8 prefects having designed a book request poster, a copy of which has been in every tutor group, all monies raised will be used to buy books requested by the children for the library. We are so impressed by our prefects and children who did a sterling job this afternoon, developing life skills that will stand them in such good stead in the future- we truly have some budding entrepreneurs here and observing, I was so incredibly proud of them all!

We hope that you have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Warmest wishes,

Dr Craddock

Rights Respecting News

Article of the Week

Article 24 - health and health services'

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

'Article 27 - adequate standard of living'

Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

During our weekly assembly, we asked the children 'Why do you think water is such an important and precious resource?' The children came up with a range of excellent responses:

- To stay clean
- To keep hydrated
- To keep our brains hydrated
- To enjoy in swimming pools and in the sea
- Some places use water to generate power



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Events this month:

World Water Day

Date: 22 March

What is it: Water is a basic requirement for all life, yet water resources are facing increasing demands from, and competition among, users. Day established 1992.

Rights Link: Article 24: Health and health services

Earth Hour

Date: 27 March

What is it: WWF event to raise awareness for climate change issues across the globe.

Rights Link: Article 6: Life, survival and development



YEAR 6

Last week, year 6 experienced a Mock SAT'S Week, so as to prepare them for their National Exams, at the start of May. Although they were initially quite nervous, they realised that after completing the week's programme, it actually wasn't so scary after all. In fact, many of our students actually quite enjoyed the tests and now know what to expect on the day. The week was a great success for all. Well done Year 6!

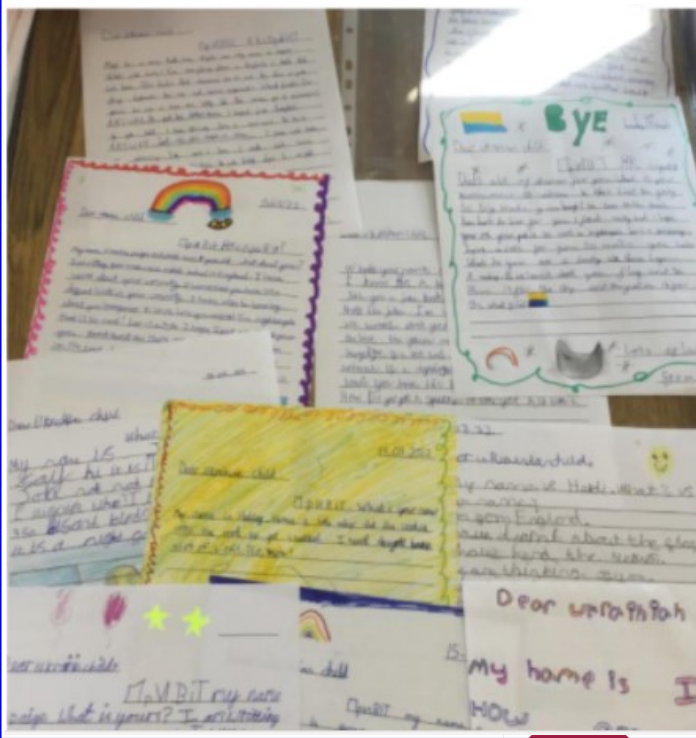


THANK YOU

Thank you for your fabulous cake – bake contributions and donated cakes. We were overwhelmed with the cakes baked to support the humanitarian appeal to support the people of Ukraine. The monies raised by selling the cakes in school amount to **£ 291.66** and will be donated to the disasters emergency committee for the Ukraine Appeal. More information can be found at this website link. [Click here](#)



A big thank you to those children in Year 5 that also wrote letters to the children in Ukraine, in order to make them smile, in such a difficult and heart-breaking time.



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Year 5 have had an exciting week. From the success of the box up and bake off, we want to thank all of the children, family and friends for their generous effort and donations. The year 5 classes created some fantastic hands for Ukraine that are up on the fence so please go and have a look at them. We are so thrilled that we have been offered such an exciting opportunity to go and see the Circus this Thursday and cannot wait for the children to have such wonderful inspiration for their literacy. On Friday, the school is hosting its book bash (held and organised by the Stupendous Year 8 team!). Year 5 had been given the task of creating some delicious treat to sell. The Year 5 team thought it would be helpful to send a quick and easy recipe for some Easter chocolate nests for the children to create and sell. Please [click here](#) to access the Year 5 blog for an easy recipe suggestion.



FUN AT FOREST SCHOOL

This week at Forest School:

Year 5 -Much fun was had by playing team games such as Giants, Wizards and Dwarves and Noisy Neighbours before using our muscles to remove trip hazards using the bow saw.

Year 6 /7 – Lots of fun and concentration needed in a game of Cat and Mouse.

Year 8 – Year 8 – Amazing team work to prepare the camp fire and make a pasta with sauce and cheese.



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Please come along and support our PTFA event next week:



FISH SUPPER BINGO NIGHT

**ON: THURSDAY 31st
MARCH 2022**

Time: 18.00-20.00 pm



The Friends of West Moors Middle School (PTFA) invite you to an evening of fun and prizes on Thursday 31st March 2022. Seafood Fish and Chips are providing a fish supper from 18.00 with eyes down from 18.45 for bingo. Tickets for bingo can be purchased on the night but food will need to be pre-ordered so please send in the slip below with full payment by Monday 28th March 2022. N.B. Parents and carers should not go directly to Seafood Fish to order.

All food orders should be brought to the school office.

- 6pm - Fish and Chips £7
- Veggie Burger and Chips £5.50
- Portion of chips £2.50
- Jumbo sausage and chips £5
- 7pm - £2 per book (6 games per book)

On the night, we will have a soft drinks bar and raffle. If you are unable to attend but still wish to support this PTFA fundraising event, please could you send in a bottle, chocolates or unwanted Christmas gift that could be used for a prize in the raffle? Many thanks in advance for all your support.

Footpaths and Parking— A plea for support

At busy drop off and collection times, please can parents and carers park away from the zig zag lines and the front of the school, keeping the footpaths clear so that our children can walk along them in safety, with ease.

The speed limit on this road is 30 mph so your help and support to drive even slower, **below this speed of 30 mph, during busy times will help to keep children in our school community safe.** Their lives are too precious and we would greatly value your help and support.

Uniform Donations:

If you have any good condition used uniform no longer needed, please donate to the school as our Eco Team will be having a second hand uniform sale soon.



Lateness:

The school gates open from 08.25 so please try to get your child to school in good time and not later than 08.40. As a general rule, children do not like being late for school in any way and it can throw some children off for the full day, as they struggle to adjust. Please support your child to arrive in good time to help us to make a positive start each morning. Many thanks for your continuing support.



Thank you to everyone who came along on Wednesday morning for a coffee and chat with the Headteacher. The next Headteacher's Coffee & Chat meeting is at 14:25 on Tuesday 10th May 2022. Please come along as it would be wonderful to see you there.



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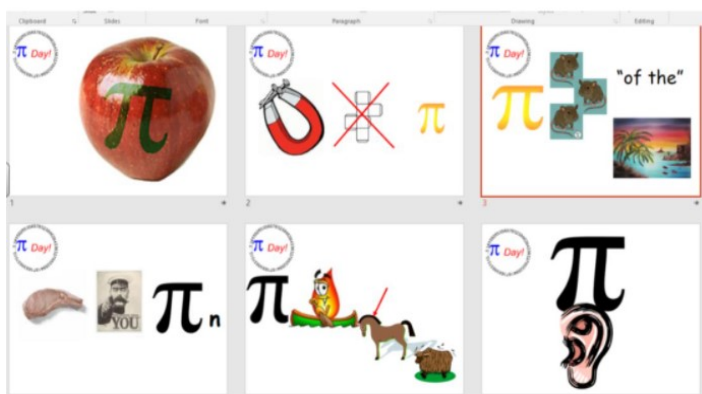
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MATHSWATCH

From Easter 8CT will be piloting homework on-line by using MathsWatch. We already use this software once a week during lessons and now we would like to roll it out as homework as it provides the opportunity for pupils to carry out independent learning with the aid of learning videos and interactive questions (based upon GCSE questions). The hope is that pupils will learn to work more independently and that the software will prepare pupils for their FUS Maths transfer tests in May. All pupils know their usernames and passwords. If successful, we will then roll out to 7AD whilst 8AS and 7MM will engage with the Sumdog software.

On Monday March the third we celebrated pi day in class as the numerical version of the date is 3.14 which is the value of pi ! With some of the classes in KS3 we explored the value of pi and why it is used..... we also tried 'say what you see' puzzles. Here are a few for you to try:



Communication

A reminder that at West Moors Middle School, we use our school website, email and our Twitter page to communicate and share information with you.

Email: office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

School Website: <https://westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk>

Twitter page: https://twitter.com/west_moors

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestMoorsMiddleSchool/>



Finally, please also look out for **all key information** to parents such as events information, newsletters, trips and special events using the **parent mail system**.



School Year: Term Dates & Holidays 2021/22

Spring Term 2022:

Term ends for students on Friday 8th April

Summer Term 2022

Term starts for students on Monday 25th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May – school closed

Term ends on Friday 27th May

Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday 6th June 2022

Term starts for students on Tuesday 7th June

Inset Day Friday 1st July

Term ends on Friday 22nd July

Inset Days:



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EASTER

MULTI-SPORTS HOLIDAY CAMP

**STANDARD
DAY**
(8:30-15:30)
£20

**EXTENDED
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10 Top Tips for Respect Online: A DIGITAL WORLD FOR EVERYONE

Even before lockdowns inflamed the situation, one in every five 10- to 15-year-olds was experiencing bullying online: abusive messages, having rumours spread about them or being excluded from group chats, for example. Through smartphones and tablets, we're used to being able to communicate from anywhere, at any time – but digital devices became commonplace so quickly that it caused a problem: as a society, we haven't properly adjusted to how different they've made life. Our tips can help you to build positive relationships online and avoid some of the potential issues.

WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Etiquette is a set of rules to help us interact with others: like a code of respect. People follow this code every day (mostly without even thinking about it) and it can help us decide how to act in certain situations. 'Netiquette' (etiquette on the net – we see what they did there!) is the same, except it's designed to help us interact with others online, which is sometimes a whole different ball game.

1 SEE THE OTHER SIDE

Usually when we're online, we can't see the other person's body language or tone of voice to give us clues about what we can say to them, or how to say it. Try to think what the situation might be like for them, how they're feeling and whether we'd say the same thing if they were actually there with us.

2 HIT THE PAUSE BUTTON

Without a person physically there in front of us, it's easy to send something quickly – before we've really thought about whether it's helpful or kind. Just because we can do things quickly doesn't mean we should. It's better to pause for a second and think it through, instead of simply reacting.

3 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

People have invented loads of different ways to communicate online (emojis, abbreviations like LOL, Tsk and so on). Some of these can be triggering to other people (such as using emojis so it looks like YOU'RE SHOUTING), so it's important to stay aware of the style of language you're using.

4 BE SURE BEFORE YOU POST

On social networks like Instagram or Facebook, vast numbers of people might see what you've posted. So if that's something negative about a person, it can feel hugely painful for them. If you're ever tempted to post something like that, ask yourself 'do I really need to go public with this?'

5 PROTECT YOURSELF

Always think very carefully before sharing any personal information with someone else or in a group. Once something's been put online, the sender loses any control over where it goes and who might see it. If you've got any uncertainty at all, it's a good idea to talk to a trusted adult about this first.

6 KINDNESS IS CATCHING

Negative communication can spread rapidly online, but so can being kind and helpful (this happened quite a lot during lockdowns, for instance). A friendly, positive message can make a big difference to someone as well as helping us feel good about ourselves – so share the love!

7 WAITING CAN BE HARD

When we've sent a message or posted something online, waiting for a reply or for someone to respond can make us anxious. It could be helpful to think whether you really have to message or post right now – or if you could wait until a better time when it will cause you less anxiety.

8 THE NET LOVES ATTENTION

Most apps, games and sites use sophisticated technology that's designed to keep us coming back for more. It's important to keep this in mind when you feel the need to reach for your phone, tablet or console – once we understand this fact, it becomes easier to control how we use our digital devices.

9 REPLY WISELY

Sometimes it's tempting to fire back an instant response to a post or message we don't like. How we respond is important, however – whether we reply privately to the person or on a platform where lots of people will see it, for example, makes a big difference to how whoever is receiving the message will deal with it.

10 FORGIVE AND FORGET

Even though we try to avoid them, mistakes can – and do – happen online. They can sometimes feel like a bigger deal than they actually are. It's important to remember that we're all only human, and sometimes we mess up. Learn to forgive others and – just as importantly – to forgive yourself.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Canele Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication on line, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the medium.



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