



# Parents' and Carers' Weekly Newsletter

*'Thriving to achieve our best - together'*

11th March 2022

## Message from Dr Craddock

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a lovely week in school this week- the children have settled well into their learning and are all proving to be enthusiastic and engaged. I was delighted to join some children for a reflection and curriculum review this week. It was amazing to see and listen to the children sharing their views on the incorporation of British Sign Language (BSL) within the curriculum. We were joined by Liliana, a student from Bournemouth University, who is exploring the development of an educational BSL app and all the children present were enthusiastic to learn BSL to enable them to be communicate effectively with anyone who is deaf and thereby promote equality of opportunities for everyone.

As part of our on-going school development, I would like to invite parents and carers to meet with me on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 from 09.00-10.00. We welcome feedback from parents/carers on aspects of our school and your views are highly valued as an important part of our self-evaluation which supports us all in providing the best for our school community. It would be wonderful if as many parents and carers could be there and refreshments will be provided.

Our PTFA will be holding a Bingo and Fish and Chips family event on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 from 18.00-19.30. We have not been able to hold this event due to Covid-19 for the past two years and so we are all looking forward to it. Please could you add this date to your calendars as we would love to see as many of our families there as possible.

Lastly, on Friday 18th March 2022 we will be holding a 'crazy hair day' for a donation for Red Nose Day. Children will be wearing school uniform that day, thank you.

I hope that you enjoy a lovely weekend.

Warmest Wishes,

Dr Craddock



## Rights Respecting News

### Article of the Week

#### **'Article 2 - non-discrimination'**

The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

#### **'Article 12 - respect for the views of the child'**

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

**'Article 13 - freedom of expression'**. Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

During our weekly assembly, we asked the children **'What does a gender equal world look like to you?'**

The children came up with a range of excellent responses:

- All children treated the same in class
- Sports in PE lessons are equally available to all



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- All girls globally can access the same education as boys
- People learn about and understand bias and discrimination
- Equal pay for women and access to the most senior job roles

### **Events coming up 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

### **Uniform and High Expectations**

We believe at West Moors Middle School that a uniform is a statement of pride in the school, a statement of belonging and a personal commitment by the individual to the school. Our school uniform is designed to present a positive image of our school to both our local community in West Moors and beyond. All children will be encouraged to keep themselves neat and tidy and to take pride in their general appearance. Parents and carers can purchase items from the recommended school suppliers and standard items can be bought from local supermarkets. For further information about school uniform expectations please [click here](#)



### **Gymnastics Club**

We are really impressed with the progress our children have made in our gymnastics after-school club! With a range of abilities and experience amongst the group, it's incredible to observe. Well done to all our children- we're so proud of you all.



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## **FUN AT FOREST SCHOOL**

### **This week at Forest School:**

**Year 5** – Very busy. Using their super listening skills for a game of Bat and Moth, followed by den building and looking after our environment for all with a massive litter pick!

**Year 6/7** – High adventures on the rope bridge learning to keep their balance – lots of concentration needed. Followed by a game of Tug of War.

**Year 8** – Holding in-depth conversations while playing games or whittling. Overall a great day and the rain held off!



## **Blue Skies Workshop**

Some excellent team building and communication skills were explored and developed today by some of our KS3 students during the Blue Skies workshop run by Jon Egging Trust.



## **After School Sports**

Tag rugby club after school in the sunshine  
It's great to see our children outdoors, having fun, and getting fit! **Why not join in the fun?**





## Tuck Shop and Snacks - Plus Free Fruit and Bagels

Just a reminder that the school tuck shop is open at break times and children are able to purchase a snack for 60 pence. The choices available consist of: Bread roll, savoury snack to change daily, fruit or a drink. In addition all children can request a snack of fruit, which is free of charge to any child from our school tuck shop at break time. The children have also been enjoying the free breakfast bagels each morning during tutor time for anyone who has forgotten to eat breakfast or is just feeling hungry.



## Cold Weather

The weather remains cold and wet at times. Please ensure that all children have appropriate clothing such as a warm coat. Last term, there was an increasing number of parents also reporting items of lost property, some of which I know are expensive. Please ensure that all your child's items of clothing are named, so that should they get lost, they can be easily identified and returned. Can I also remind you that children should be wearing appropriate footwear to school in the form of black shoes. Recently, some children have been coming in trainers and this is not correct school uniform.

## Communication

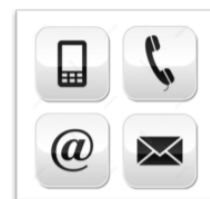
A reminder that at West Moors Middle School, we use our school website, email and our Twitter page to communicate and share information with you.

Email: [office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk)

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

Twitter page: [https://twitter.com/west\\_moors](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 on Friday 18th February

Term starts for students on Monday 28th February

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:

Friday 1st July 2022



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# Bake-off & Box-up



West Moors Middle School fundraiser supports Ukrainian children.

West Moors Middle School is hosting a fundraiser on the 18<sup>th</sup> March in support of the Ukrainian children who have been affected by the war in Ukraine.

## How to support the fundraiser on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March

### **EITHER choose to**

Bake a cake in solidarity with the Ukrainian children and enter it into the WMMS Bake-off on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March with a small donation up to £2.00.

Photos of the magnificent submissions will be shared on social media and the winners of the Bake-off will receive recognition for their efforts.

*Some ideas to get the creative juices flowing:-*

Include the colours of the Ukrainian flag

Bake a cake in the shape of the Ukrainian flag

Create a cake by baking the individual letters in the word

U K R A I N E

Decorate your cake/cupcakes with messages/ flags of encouragement.

Using biscuits, create children's faces

Deliver your creation to the office on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Remember to include your donation in an envelope

The judging of the creations will take around lunchtime.

Pupils and staff will have an opportunity to shop for cake after lunch.

### **OR choose from the following**

Send in an empty shoebox in the weeks running up to the fundraiser . Include your donation in an envelop.

*Choose from the list of items below and send these into school. They will be shared between shoeboxes received:-*

A picture / letter from your child/children to a Ukrainian child.

A toothbrush and toothpaste

A facecloth

Crayons or colouring pencils and a sharpener / coloured pens

Small colouring book / notebook

A pocket sized teddy

Fill a shoe box with the items listed above and send it in to the office on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> March.



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

**18**

CENSORED

## EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&H\*!

## TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become 'TikTok famous'. While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



## HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

## ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

## IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

### MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 18s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 18s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

### LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

### USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

### MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

## Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



SOURCES: TikTok.cpm

**NOS**  
**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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